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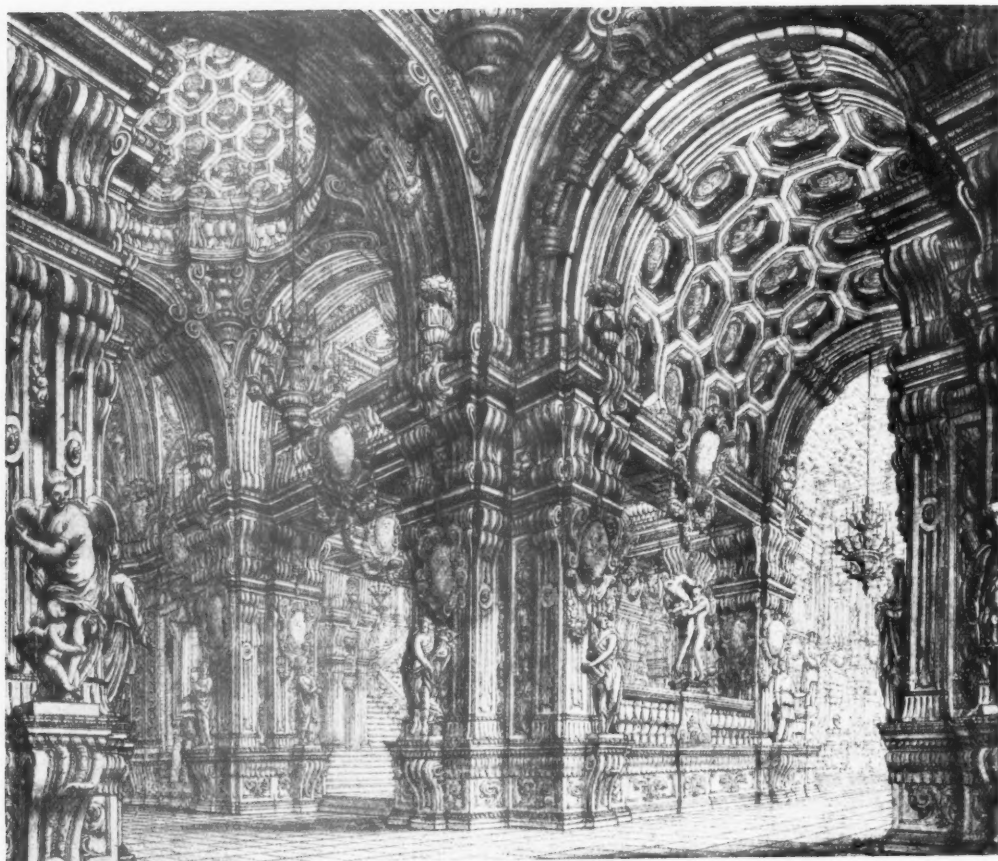
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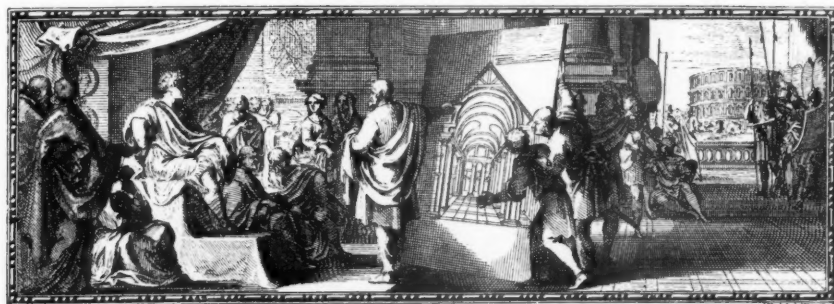
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IMAGINATIVE INTERIOR OR STAGE SETTING

By Giuseppi Galli da Bibiena (1696-1756)

From the Drummond-Stewart Collection in the R.I.B.A. Library



Public Control of Building: The Position in 1930

BY MR. A. N. C. SHELLEY, M.A., B.C.L., BARRISTER-AT-LAW

[A Paper read before the Royal Institute of British Architects on Monday, 17 November 1930]

PUBLIC Control of Building is too vast a topic to cover adequately in less than half a dozen lectures, even were I free to deal with it as an academic study. Moreover, to make clear the Position in 1930, after some statements lately published, calls for more history than I wished to give, so that the logical balance of law and history and practice must be partly sacrificed, and, instead of giving you a full account without cross-reference, I shall have to ask you to refer, for information which I can not include to-night, to my paper of 1922, reported in the *JOURNAL* of the Royal Institute of British Architects for December 1922, and January 1923, to my intervention in your debate a year ago, reported in the *JOURNAL* for last January, and to the Statement on the Public Control of Building prepared in the Ministry of Health last month, for the Steel Structures Research Conference, which many at least of you have seen.

In the *JOURNAL* for September 1930, a letter of mine was published, and it appeared also in several other professional papers, inviting suggestions for points with which I might usefully deal to-night. The response consists of one letter from the secretary of a provincial architectural society, giving examples from a single district, one from an architect not in ordinary practice, who wants further restrictions on building and development, two from plumbers, and one from an engineer (in private practice, not municipal), asking for further legal restrictions upon architects. I shall deal with their points as I reach them. From architects or others who may think the law too harsh, or too detailed, I have had no other answer, and I am tempted,

in the words of the Book of Common Prayer, to bid them hold their peace hereafter. But they will not: subterranean rumblings will continue.

At the end of the paper which I read before the Institute in 1922, I said "we still get much less help than might be possible from the architectural profession, and I should like to end with a plea that architects who find themselves in difficulties should not hesitate to make them known to us . . . Nothing can be lost, much may be gained, by letting us know in detail what your troubles are. We hear of grievances unspecified; we find on many sides a general and sweeping condemnation. Let us have the facts." Had we depended, in the eight years which have passed, on evidence from the profession to bring about reforms, England would indeed have been in the position which, I gather, many architects and all journalists still believe she occupies.

In the same paper I suggested that reformers, in the broad sense of persons who were aggrieved by the operation of building law as it then existed, were in danger of dissipating their strength if they did not concentrate their efforts. I repeat that warning now, and shall be more explicit, but first let me remind you of the reform on which I suggested that efforts should be concentrated, the reform put in the forefront by the Departmental Committee on Building Bye-laws four years earlier—that the Minister should be given power, where he was satisfied that the bye-laws in force in any district were or were likely to be an unreasonable impediment to building, to require the revocation of those bye-laws. There was nothing new in this: Parliament conceded the power in 1909, but did not

make it workable until 1923, the year after my paper. I gladly acknowledge the support given by the then President of the Institute in a letter which he wrote to *The Times* while Mr. Chamberlain's Bill to make the power work was passing through the House of Commons. To complete the tale of legislative changes, I mention here the Public Health Act, 1925, and the Local Government Act, 1929, to which I shall return. They are not of the first importance to you; they cannot be ignored, but the vital reform was that made in 1923—and I dare swear that not a man or woman in this room would have supposed from most recent publications that any reform had been accomplished. In speaking of "most" recent publications I have not forgotten the detailed statement given at page 152 of the Institute's JOURNAL for the 11th of January last, or the statement of the law affecting steelwork, which I have already cited. These documents disprove, with facts and figures, such a sentence as I found, after the Conference of last October, in a city article upon the steel trade: "Throughout the country, local building bye-laws, Acts, and Regulations, demand weights and strength which are known to be excessive."

"Throughout the country," mark you. This sensational falsehood is naturally more exciting than our repeated publication of mere facts and figures. Facts and figures, therefore, must be again inflicted; but firstly we had better have an account of the framework within which reformers have to move. I said in this room in 1922 that fundamental change in the English system of the control of building by elected local authorities seemed to me improbable, and (so far as general statements on American local government are safe) it is to be noticed that the system there is similar, as it is in the Dominions. It is part of the English heritage of government, and practical reformers can spend their time more usefully on improving the system than in trying to alter it entirely. Parliament, since first building was widely controlled by legislation, has treated it as one of the topics with which elected, responsible local authorities shall be concerned; at the Steel Structures Conference last month I was charged to express the Minister's view that that system must continue, and I do not see any Minister, of whatever party, thinking otherwise. The trend of legislation, and of Governmental action, throughout the 21 years I have been in the public service, and the longer period I have been familiar with local government, has been steadily towards increasing the power of elected local authorities, and this trend has been markedly accelerated in the last ten years. The problem which we have to face is to ensure that local authorities, elected as they are on issues of more popular appeal, shall keep their local legislation and methods of administration up to date, and avoid needless restrictions upon building and development. In

some at least of the Dominions (I have this by word of mouth from one of the Agents-General) they have not yet felt this is a problem. In the States the problem has emerged and been forcefully put in the prefaces to the Reports of the Building Code Committee, published by President Hoover, as Secretary for Commerce, in 1923, and later, but it has not been solved—far from it. Of course, settling a series of bye-laws involving architectural, engineering, medical, and legal problems is a complex task. To quote a recent newspaper:—

"More than eighteen months were required for the Committee to prepare its first draft of the code, which was then submitted to the City Council. After several months' consideration, that body decided that a number of changes were desirable, and the code was referred back to the Committee . . ." The story is continued at some length, as were the Committee's meetings. After 22 further meetings had been held, covering four years in all, the code was finally adopted by the City Council. The newspaper from which I am quoting is *The American City*, speaking of a large industrial city in New England. For the same process, the English Acts of Parliament, in 1909 and 1923, have fixed three months as adequate—though even here, with our model bye-laws at their hand, local authorities' machinery does not work quite so quickly. In England, treating control by elected local authorities as basic, Parliament has sought in three ways to prevent this control from being needlessly restrictive. Firstly, it has required an external consent before certain forms of building control become effective: this consent was at first that of the Courts, but now for many years has been that of a Minister of the Crown. Secondly, it left it open to the Courts to declare those forms of control to be unreasonable, at the suit of those affected by them, despite ministerial consent; and thirdly, it has in recent years provided machinery outside the Courts for annulling those forms of control, even without complaint by those affected, where control is, or is likely to be, an unreasonable impediment to building.

The results so far achieved, of this policy of leaving control on the one hand to local authorities, but on the other hand giving an overriding power to a Minister of the Crown whose duty it is to keep in touch with what all local authorities are doing, are available to everyone. Any statement printed two months ago is already incomplete, but for convenience I will use the figures for steelwork circulated before the Conference on Steel Structures in October.

There are outside London 1,763 local authorities in England and Wales;

Of these, 1,122 are the councils of boroughs or urban districts.

Some boroughs and urban districts have no bye-laws.

There are 641 rural district councils.

About one-third of the rural districts have no bye-laws.

About one-third of the rural districts have bye-laws based upon the rural model, which contains no provisions restricting the materials of buildings, and so contains no provisions restricting steel-work.

The remaining one-third of the rural districts have bye-laws which contain no requirements as to the structure of warehouse buildings, and as regards public buildings and domestic buildings simply require that steel construction shall be adequate to secure due stability;

In the rest of the country, whether the districts be thickly populated industrial areas or residential areas, whatever bye-laws exist allow steelwork for all classes of buildings—or (in some districts where revision took place some years ago) for all except domestic buildings—either without imposing any requirements or imposing only the requirement that it shall be adequate to secure due stability.

It will thus be seen that, unless under local Acts, there is no legal impediment anywhere in this country to the ordinary use of structural steelwork. So much for that, and on some other topics with which local bye-laws deal, ideas have moved faster in the last ten years than on steel framed buildings.

I do not suggest that bye-laws made in 1922, or even the overwhelming majority which are newer still, have no need to be reviewed. Steps for their review are being taken. But I do say that no man has any right to decry the country's effort in keeping her building law abreast of modern knowledge. Having given you the facts, I invite your interest in a press cutting of some few weeks ago. It is from a provincial paper of the highest standing, but I will not pillory the anonymous journalist, whose main fault was, I suppose, that he believed what some propagandist told him. The cutting is such a trophy of the rubbish heap that I must quote some lines *verbatim*: "In this matter Great Britain is lagging far behind the United States. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald might well take a lesson from President Hoover, who when he was Secretary of Commerce insisted on building codes being revised. It was found, for example, that there were 800 building codes in effect in 800 American towns. . . . To-day the standard building code and plumbing code adopted by the Department of Commerce is being used in more than 200 cities. It is hoped that in this country the Building Industry Council of Review will succeed in convincing the Government as to the need to bring pressure upon our 1,800 Local Authorities to carry out the revision so urgently required." Now it is commonly misleading to compare what is done in the United States and here, by local authorities; the legislation under which

they work is not uniform from State to State, and within single States there are variations in the form of City government and in the powers which it exercises, variations which are not the same as the differences between urban and rural districts, for example, in this country. But let us accept at its face value the statement that 200 American cities have since 1922 brought up to date their building law. In one year alone, 1925, England almost doubled that number, and did so again in 1926. Between the end of 1922 and the end of October 1930, we multiplied that number by $7\frac{1}{2}$. The passage I have quoted speaks as if only 800 self-governing areas in the United States possessed a local building law, and as if all our 1,800 had bye-laws, and bye-laws requiring revision. It is so drafted as to convey this to any ordinary reader. False, grossly false, though this was, even at the worst period of English bye-laws; let me repeat the figures: in the States 200 local authorities out of 800 (or one quarter) have had their local building law reviewed. In England and Wales, excluding London, eight (five having local Acts, and three having bye-laws now in process of revision) out of 1,800 have not.

Mr. President, as an officer of Government I am here to give authentic figures, and these speak for themselves. But as an ordinary Englishman I protest against this defeatist propaganda. In Canada, for instance, we were told last month, it is a serious question whether British steel can make its footing good against American. Every man, therefore, should be doing what he can to further British trade, instead of spreading the notion that in this practical matter English men and English Governments are too stupid to put their house in order.

Let us ponder further on the paragraph. The first thing which strikes a reader familiar with the Constitution of the United States, is the writer's ignorance of what there is rudimentary, that the Secretary for Commerce, aye, the President of the United States himself, is powerless to "insist" that a City government shall modify its building code. This power, given in England by Act of Parliament in 1909 to the Local Government Board, and strengthened for the Minister of Health in 1923, and used to bring about the results I have already given you, would in the States require a constitutional amendment. Let that pass as a technicality, notwithstanding that the code of the Department of Commerce shows in its various prefaces that it is advisory and can be no more. Let us come to the substantial point that, while "Great Britain is lagging far behind," the Department of Commerce in Washington issued a model building code in 1923—or, to be precise, has issued it in parts beginning with that year. Marvellous! All credit to them for accomplishing voluntarily, in the public interest, a task which our Local Government Board completed 45 years earlier

under the pressure of necessity. That they did not feel the need so soon, and that they have embodied some provisions which we embodied in 1877, but have since abandoned as needless and oppressive, may well be due to the constitutional difference—that there is not direct relation between the city government and the Federal Government, so that, lacking guidance from the centre, the city codes have become “chaotic”—this description, applied in 1922 in some important matters, is said by the Department of Commerce in 1929 to be “still applicable to-day,” and a wealth of detail is supplied to prove it—in a chapter which our propagandist had not time to read, in his haste to draft a paragraph damaging to British credit. And so with Germany. No Federal Minister has compulsory powers over local building laws, and local building laws do not, as normally with us, require governmental confirmation. German inventiveness and enterprise have been assisted through local adoption, voluntarily, of rules issued from the appropriate Federal Department, and in the revolutionary period progress in scrapping old restrictions was more rapid than with us. But we soon caught up, and for several years the English law of building, over by far the greater portion of the provinces, has offered no excuse to the Englishman if he has failed in invention and in enterprise. By all means let us pick the brains of foreigners. They expect it and respect us when we do it. At the Steel Structures Research Conference last month a representative of the United States Steel Corporation expressed surprise that in efforts to rationalise the British steel industry more use of American experience had not been made, and the first copy to reach England, of the “code” prepared in 1922 in the Department of Commerce, and issued in 1923, was probably that sent under cover to me personally from that Department, with a view to our using it in the Ministry so far as we could do so with advantage. We have done so, and our inquiries into foreign building law and practice have not been restricted to America.

In some fields, it may be, the foreigner can beat us: In political philosophy and in jurisprudence English writers lag behind the Latins, and I have just read that in this century England is ceasing to be the leader in the world of drama (I did not know she was, last century). But the Noble Savage, invented by Tacitus as a German contrast to the Roman world which had outgrown him; re-invented in the eighteenth century by men who fancied the American Indian to be superior to the corrupt sophistication which they felt in Europe—why should this American and Teutonic figment haunt our discussions upon building law? Let me not overstate the case. Much has been done, but much remains to do. The danger is that the building world may be led astray—partly by demonstrable

misunderstandings and misstatements, partly by mere words. Calling a document a “code” gives some people a sense of mystical beatitude, not derived from its ordinary name of “model bye-laws.” “Rationalisation” cannot be avoided, and I dread to think I shall probably use it in this paper more than once. When people realise, however, that words, however new and ugly, have no talismanic value, we shall be nearer useful action.

The remaining towns where building is controlled entirely by Statute are blots upon our system, and the statute law stands in other ways in need of codification and arrangement. More important still, there is need for inexpensive and speedy interpretation of the law embodying the control of building, not merely where both parties desire that interpretation—where they do, they can have it for the asking even now—but where one party is obstructive. My object is to move you to concentrate on real reforms, instead of wasting your strength upon demands which were anticipated and already met before you uttered them.

I will not take up your time with a catalogue of the misstatements, misapprehensions, and even misrepresentations which one finds from day to day, but I have given you some, and a few more may provide the comic relief which I am sure you need. A letter appeared in several papers, signed sometimes “Senex,” and sometimes with the writer’s name, complaining that he had had trouble with his local bye-laws and that the Ministry of Health had declined to help him. Since he sometimes gave his name, his correspondence was easily identified—when it was found that he had made a complaint without mentioning the district, and we had replied that if he would tell us the district we would see whether we could usefully take the matter up. His complaint that we declined to help was unimportant; it was indeed just silly, but it has two morals: how the legend of obstructive bye-laws is built up, and, as I said in 1922 and again to-night, let us have the facts.

Even in so well-informed and useful a paper as the *Plumbing Trade Journal*, there occurred the statement last August that “All bye-laws require that a water closet must have one external wall” (a requirement long abandoned in the model bye-laws except for dwelling-houses, and now becoming rare even in local bye-laws), and “most bye-laws prohibit water closets from being entered directly from a living room.” At a meeting of well-known architects I was almost disbelieved when I assured them that this latter bye-law probably does not exist in a dozen (I am sure not in twenty) places in the Kingdom. On the same occasion I was told that local authorities ought to have, but have not, some rules supervising the pipes for water supply, their position and protection from frost, the use of stop taps, and so forth—whereas in

truth nearly every authority (local authority or company) supplying water has and enforces such rules, good or bad, and for more than twenty years model bye-laws on these points have existed.

As regards the requirements for water closets, that is the supposed universal requirements of external walls and ventilated lobbies, the explanation is that these were required in London until the middle of this year, when the County Council decided to follow in part the example of the provinces, and, without going so far towards freedom as the model bye-laws and ordinary bye-laws outside London, to make valuable concessions to modern sanitary practice. This being so, it is amusing to read in another trade paper, the *Carpenter and Builder*, for this month, a plea for adoption of the County Council's bye-laws outside London, and perhaps I am less amused than I should be by a flaring headline in a Sunday paper of some few weeks ago, "Your own bath at last in British Hotels," which led to the statement, published as a quotation from an architect whose name was given, that the new London bye-law was the most important event in the hotel world for fifty years, because, "most important of all," the provinces usually followed London in building regulations; so that soon it would be possible to adopt in big provincial towns the methods just legalised in London—again, a merely silly statement. The claim of the hotel proprietor is just, that numerous bathrooms cannot be provided if they all have outside walls—but since the model bye-laws, and the same is true of nearly all provincial bye-laws, do not require and never have required outside walls for bathrooms (and do not and for years have not required outside walls for water closets in hotels), bye-laws afford no reason why bathrooms should not be constructed in the provinces.

I have heard complaint made of a bye-law "that all sanitary work must be carried out to the satisfaction of the Council and its officials"—a bye-law which conceivably might have been enacted somewhere seventy or eighty years ago, but I have never seen it, and since 1875 it has been regarded as legally impossible.

Under the late Government the Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry, Sir Kingsley Wood, was told by an architect well known in London that he was everywhere required by bye-laws to provide footings for all buildings. At Sir Kingsley Wood's request I looked into the complaint, the fact being that this requirement has long been omitted from the model bye-laws, and if it exists anywhere in local bye-laws is, at all events, extremely rare. Sir Kingsley Wood asked the complainant for his facts, and it turned out that his "everywhere" was one place and that that place had no bye-laws. You may think this tale incredible, but it is true.

One hears, again, that the architect finds his style cramped by the requirement in bye-laws of 9 feet or 8 feet 6 inches for the height of rooms. As I said in this room a year ago, bye-laws governing the height of rooms are dying out. Of rural districts, concerning which the complaint has been most vocal, there is certainly not one in ten having any bye-law at all upon the subject. In urban districts and boroughs the bye-law is also rare except in the industrial north and the suburban districts outside London, which are influenced by the existence of a statutory requirement of 8 feet 6 inches in the London Building Act. Where the bye-law exists there are not more than three places in the country where 9 feet is still required, and not a dozen where the height required is more than 8 feet.

One of the correspondents I have mentioned, to whom I am indebted for suggesting points to be dealt with in this paper, mentioned in his letter to me the two I have just given, that is, footings and the height of rooms—and mentioned them in terms which suggested that his trouble still continued and was widespread. On inquiry I learnt that it related to one district, where the bye-law requiring 9 feet as the height of rooms had been repealed in 1915, and that requiring footings was revoked by the Minister in 1925. I have no grievance against him. He did not rush into print with his mistakes, but sent them to the Ministry, and correspondence which he forwarded showed that he had been inexcusably misled by the local authority's surveyor. Strong steps might be taken against this latter had the thing come to the Minister officially. My only adverse comment on my correspondent is that he should have told us of his trouble last year (when it arose) in an official letter.

St. Thomas Aquinas humanely admits a distinction between invincible error, where a person has no means of knowledge or is so deficient in natural capacity that he can not take advantage of the means presented to him, and vincible error, which is mortal sin. An architect deceived by a local authority or local official, and forgetting that we have bound volumes of all local bye-laws, may, I suppose, regard himself as lacking means of knowledge, and for composers of headlines and the penny-a-liner we may adopt, with Jeremy Taylor, the description, "heathen and infidels whose ignorance is simple and invincible." But where are we to classify those who know they have only to ask us, to be authoritatively told what bye-laws are in force in any district in the Kingdom, yet blindly spread the ratsbane I have shown you? That I grow impatient after many years of it you will hardly be surprised. For proved or provable causes of complaint you will find a ready and patient hearing in the Ministry, but I beg you to avoid drawing wide conclusions from too few examples. Architects who work almost exclusively in London may well believe

restrictions to be common which are unique or very rare, and in the nature of things few architects can have experience of the law in more than a few places. If in those places they have trouble, they may think their trouble universal. As Bertrand Russell says felicitously in his recent book:

"Cases of this kind are particularly obstinate, owing to the partial truth of their outlook; the thing that has touched them personally has made, as is natural, more impression than the much larger number of matters of which they have no direct experience. This gives them a wrong sense of proportion."

Having spoken of the reform achieved in local bye-laws, and of some misapprehensions about the model bye-laws, I pass naturally to some description of the models. I have said that the Local Government Board of necessity issued, in 1877, model bye-laws similar to the "code" begun in Washington in 1922, and the necessity was this—that Parliament had made confirmation by the Board essential before any local bye-laws took effect, and it would have been a physical impossibility to examine and collate the local authorities' proposals, so as to ensure a broad similarity with local variations only, had they not been based upon a model. This, by the way, is a trouble the Americans have found: the Department of Commerce remark not only upon requirements in themselves open to objection, but, much in the style of a circular issued by the Local Government Board in 1877, on the great divergency and deficiency in language, form, and arrangement, of the local building codes in the United States. Well, English legislation foresaw this and provided for the passing through one sieve, namely, the Local Government Board, of all local bye-laws, so that, so far as bye-laws go, you find their general arrangement nearly the same throughout the country. There is not, however, and there never has been a separate bye-law department under the Local Government Board, or in the Ministry of Health; the staff available has always had other duties to perform, and fifty years ago the Board lacked the foundations of experience on which we in London and the Department of Commerce in Washington can build to-day. So the model bye-laws came into being from necessity, in consultation, as I reminded you in 1922, and again in January last, between the Local Government Board and the Royal Institute of British Architects—who wrote urging that the Board's contemplated clauses were not drastic enough.

This, then, was the old urban model, designed for thickly populated towns, and supplemented, as I have explained already, by the rural and intermediate series as the years went by. The scope of the rural, issued in 1901, and of the intermediate, in 1905, were explained in my paper of 1922—when I exposed the

hoary fallacy that because the law of gravity is everywhere the same the law of building ought to be the same.

The issue of these simpler model series, their increasing adoption instead of the older urban model, and the constant revision of this latter, should long ago have killed the statement one still occasionally hears, that the old country cottages we all admire could not be built to-day, and that bye-laws originally framed for crowded towns are now in force in rural areas. There was some ground for talk like this thirty, and even fifteen years, ago, but to repeat it now shows inability to learn. In 1906, the Local Government Board sent a circular to rural district councils, and in 1912 to all local authorities, urban or rural, urging that needless restrictions be removed. In 1918 a memorandum in the same sense was published, and in 1922 there was another circular. Concurrently, the model bye-laws were revised from end to end, simplified, shortened, and modified to admit new methods of construction. All this is quite familiar to you, or it would be if you read your JOURNAL and our Annual Reports. But I repeat it as an antidote to what I read to you a while ago, that it is to be hoped the Government "will" bring pressure to bear—and because you ought to realise that the revision and keeping up to date of local building law is no new spasm, born of the emergency in "housing," as many people think, but is part of a consistent and persistent policy, designed (in the words of our memoranda) for the encouragement of trade, and urged upon local authorities for a generation albeit that the revoking power given to the Minister in 1923 has vastly accelerated progress. And having achieved the result that in three towns only have bye-laws of earlier date than 1922 remained without review (and there the work is well in hand) we are now beginning on those of later date. The Departmental Committee which sat from 1914 to 1918 advised that building bye-laws should be reviewed at least every ten years, and this period was adopted, with a hint that it was perhaps too long, in the circular letter of 1922. Clearly then, from 1932 at latest, we have bound ourselves to conduct a regular examination, year by year, of series of local bye-laws which have attained the age of ten, but we are not waiting for 1932. For instance, a few months ago the Board of Trade appointed a Committee on Gas Poisoning, which recommended all local authorities to make certain bye-laws which formerly had not been thought worth while. This gives an opportunity for something more: when the local authority send their draft bye-laws to prevent gas poisoning, for the Minister's preliminary approval, their existing bye-laws are examined, and a draft for their assistance is prepared, embodying the most important changes made, to bring the model series up to date, since the local bye-

laws were confirmed. The same, I may say, is done on other occasions when new bye-laws are proposed, and also with bye-laws upon other subjects; for remember this—the policy pursued by the Local Government Board and successive Ministers in regard to building bye-laws is not confined to these bye-laws: it is a general policy aimed at freeing the King's subjects from needless burdens in the local law—whether the subject be buildings or pig keeping, or public bathing, or any of the other thirty subjects or thereabouts on which bye-laws can be made. I have spoken of changes in the model bye-laws: I shall refer to some when I come to the details of the series, but here it is convenient to repeat that the models, urban, intermediate, and rural, are reprinted every year or eighteen months, so as to include all improvements suggested by experience. Another advantage which we enjoy as compared with Washington: our practical experience accruing daily has given us already several reprints of our model bye-laws since their code of 1923 appeared. They have issued further reports dealing with fresh topics, and these we have found it worth our while to study. For example, their Recommended Minimum Requirements for Plumbing, issued in 1923 and revised in 1929, corresponds broadly on its legal side to the groups of clauses as to drainage and as to water closets in our model bye-laws, plus the model bye-laws for preventing waste of water, plus some other matters where English law has left you free. This book contains not only the recommended requirements themselves, but a scientific study of drainage and its allied problems, which sanitarians tell me is the best yet published. To me, as a layman, it seems an admirable book, and, on its subject, it doubtless embodied in 1929 the latest information. But by that time the earliest portion of the "code" printed in January 1923 was in part necessarily out of date, and so the process will go on if separate parts are maintained as hitherto. We, on the other hand, when re-casting any particular group of clauses in the model bye-laws (and each single group has been re-cast within the last few years) have normally scrapped and reprinted the whole series, so that any minor alterations in other clauses suggested by experience could be introduced. The result, therefore, is that our model bye-laws are always in all parts within a few months of the latest information.

I have been asked to give some details showing this, but I shall not have time. Some were in the preliminary draft which some of you have seen, and will be expanded in the JOURNAL.* One thing I must mention, namely the final clauses of the model series which deal with the giving of notices and the deposit of

plans and sections, and generally with the enforcement of the bye-laws. These clauses, like the rest, have been recast in recent years, and we have no reason to think that architects find them oppressive or unsatisfactory. It is to be remembered that the duty of the local authority in considering the plans for ordinary buildings is to enforce the law. It cannot effectively reject plans which show compliance with the law, but, on the other hand, it is entitled to adequate information of what the builder or architect proposes. The other day I had to deal with solicitors who complained that a local authority had rejected plans by a "well-known architect" for laying out some land. On looking at the plans we found that the proposed drainage of the buildings was not shown—and even a well-known architect is hardly an equivalent for drains. I read somewhere the other day that "no building can be started in Great Britain without the drawings being approved by some authority. It may be the district surveyor; it may be the Ministry of Health; or the County Council; or the ground landlord." This is a grave exaggeration. There may be cases where the Minister must approve the plans of buildings, but, apart from some buildings erected by local authorities themselves, I cannot think of any. As for ground landlords, there are plenty of unrestricted freeholds. Outside London, county councils do not have to approve of building plans, so we are left with the local authority. Now, as you know already, there are hundreds of local authorities who have no building bye-laws, and hundreds more whose bye-laws deal with certain buildings only, except for drainage and other purposes of health—and plans cannot be required for other purposes than those with which the bye-laws deal. The same newspaper contributor goes on to urge that a local authority should be required to approve or disapprove within one month—being ignorant, it seems, that this has been the provincial law since 1848.

It is noteworthy that under the provincial building law, of which bye-laws form a part and with which alone for the moment I am dealing, we do not get the complaints, that multiplicity of consents is an impediment to building, which have been so strongly voiced in London—though even in London the complaints are not so strong as in some quarters in the States, where the Department of Commerce say that in some towns 17 to 22 consents may be required for one building. "In this matter" (to quote my anonymous journalist once more) "England is lagging far behind." In England normally the thing is done by depositing with the clerk of the one local authority a single set of plans, or pretty often at the present day a set in duplicate, and, when the Local Government Act, 1929, gave county councils for the first time certain rights affecting bye-laws as to streets in rural districts, special care was taken by Parliament, in the schedule

* It has unfortunately been found impossible to include these details in this issue of the JOURNAL. They will be published as soon as possible.—ED.

to the Act, to secure that, where plans of new streets have to be deposited, this shall still be with the rural district council only, who have to notify the county council. The statutory month is not to be exceeded and the councils concerned must arrange their work accordingly between themselves. And so this year, when the London County Council, at the instance of the Metropolitan Police, decided to seek statutory power to prevent certain new buildings from adding undue complication to the traffic problem, and I attended a conference with them and others interested, the Minister directed me to make it clear that he could not, with the general building law in mind, accede to any proposal which involved delaying plans beyond the present legal period. That brings me to the end of the urban model bye-laws. The improvements made from year to year are, I need hardly say, carried at once into the intermediate and rural models, where these contain corresponding clauses.

I mentioned above, as blots upon the country's record in adapting building law to building needs, five towns outside London where building is controlled by local Acts alone. In these places and in London what has happened is that, before the modern system of building control by way of bye-laws had become established, in some places at the time of the Industrial Revolution, and in London centuries before, Parliament had laid down rules to safeguard the public from improper building. These statutory codes of building law mitigated the evils against which they were directed and they formed a body of precedent on which the early draftsmen of bye-laws under the more modern law could draw, as well as giving practical experience in the control of building. But the great weakness of an Act of Parliament is that it cannot be altered without resort to Parliament itself. It is true that outside London any local authority which has a local Act in force can apply to the Minister of Health to make a provisional order modifying the Act, and this has been done (as the Minister's Annual Reports have chronicled) in many of the places where until the last few years old Building Acts remained in force. But a provisional order has to be confirmed by Parliament, and this involves much delay and some expense—less expense and no more delay than the promotion of a Bill, but enough to make local authorities reluctant sometimes to proceed. A suggestion, which was made by the Departmental Committee on Building Bye-laws in 1918, and has lately been revived by the British Steelwork Association in correspondence with the Minister, is that local authorities should be empowered by bye-laws under the ordinary law to modify their local Acts.

This is not a new idea; there are precedents in existing general and local legislation, and no speedier method can be devised. Parliament has very properly required that bye-laws shall not be confirmed until a

public advertisement has been given in the district and the local authority's proposals have been open to public inspection for a month, but this is the only delay which need occur. From the time a local authority inserts its advertisement in the local press until bye-laws are confirmed need not be more than five or six weeks, while a Bill would take at least as many months. The expenditure in making or altering bye-laws is simply that of the advertisement and printing (both of which on a much more lavish scale are also required for a Bill) and no charge is made for any services the Minister, through his officers, performs in examining the local authority's proposals.

Obviously, whether the local authority proceeds by Bill or bye-law there must be preliminary consultation and consideration of all interests; in comparing the time and cost of the two methods I am speaking only of the formal stages.

It will thus be seen that the advantage is overwhelmingly in favour of procedure under the ordinary law, but any local authority which desires to proceed by Bill has a right to do so. This was definitely raised in the House of Commons in 1883, and was recognised by leading constitutional authorities, while the Association of Municipal Corporations has just reaffirmed the importance which it attaches to the right.

So I might mislead you if I did not warn you that in addition to the five provincial towns where building is controlled entirely by local Act there are others where local Acts exist which may or may not touch on building. By no means all the local Acts which local authorities have obtained touch building matters, and in recent years it has been rare for wholly new powers to be granted except in the form of a power to make bye-laws supplementary to those authorised by the general law, wherever these are a practicable method.

One advantage of control by bye-law is that you know in advance what you must or must not do, since a bye-law cannot validly be in a discretionary form, while it can be altered so easily to meet new needs or knowledge that discretionary bye-laws would be unjustifiable on merits even were they good in law. An Act of Parliament, however, since it cannot be altered without delay and cost, is constantly driven to include discretionary powers for supplementing or waiving its provisions. These introduce uncertainty, the greatest curse the law can suffer, and that again can be avoided only by the local authority's laying down rules subject to which its discretion will be exercised—in other words, adopting subordinate legislation without the safeguards which Parliament has prescribed for bye-laws.

I do not say that discretionary control is never to be adopted as a substitute for bye-laws. There are some things which must be at discretion. There is the well-known power, now being freely given by Parliament in

local Acts, of controlling the elevations of buildings. Manifestly it must be a matter of discretion, if the law is to empower a public authority to refuse an architect's proposal because (for example) it dislikes a Tudor shop front (shall we say) in its Georgian or neo-Georgian main street. The local Acts which give this power cannot determine, and no bye-law could determine, what shall or shall not be done where the point is one of taste. Discretion, subject to an appeal to an *ad hoc* tribunal or the magistrates, has therefore been enacted, both in the local Acts and in town planning schemes which are now following the statutory precedents.

So again in the making up of streets. No legislation could determine, with the precision which a bye-law calls for, the conditions on which a street will or will not be taken over, and this again has been left by Parliament (as I have already said) to discretion plus appeal—though I may remark in passing that the Departmental Committee on Building Bye-laws, impressed by the large proportion of complaints made in evidence before them which related to street works (a topic outside their terms of reference) suggested that some admixture of bye-law making powers even in this topic might be feasible, so as to bring certainty, the primary object of all law, which in their own field bye-laws can secure, a little nearer.

Yet again, temporary buildings: whereas permission is not normally required before a building which is not temporary can begin, because if controlled at all it is (normally) controlled by rules binding on the local authority not less than on its builder, a temporary building can scarcely be, at least without disproportionate antecedent labour, the subject of such rules, and—where it is controlled at all, which is by no means everywhere—it is therefore left to discretion plus appeal to the ordinary Courts. In passing, let me warn you against calling things temporary buildings with the idea that this reduces the legal restrictions which apply. The law is harder on temporary buildings than on others. And do not accept from the local authority a "permission" or "consent" on the footing that a building not complying with the law is merely temporary. Such a permit, to break the law for a "temporary" period, is dangerous—if not waste paper. Although modern local Acts, proceeding as they do either upon settled precedents or by way of authorising bye-laws, will not be found to contain much that is likely to be obstructive or objectionable to the building world, there is everything to be said for rationalising local Acts, not less than other things. In considering one recent local Bill, the Local Legislation Committee of the House of Commons struck out all clauses as to building, intimating to the local authority concerned that no new powers would be given until the old local Acts were brought up to date. Even where it is in substance harmless, it is a nuisance

to be unable to find the law, so we urge local authorities at least to print with their bye-laws any sections in local Acts bearing upon building, and we have urged them also to consolidate their local Acts upon all subjects. Some progress has been made: Liverpool, Leeds, and Sheffield, for example, have had consolidation Acts, the latest of which, Liverpool, wiped out legislation going back a hundred years, and it is probable that Brighton will have a Bill this Session, consolidating legislation of which some dates from George IV. On the other hand, Leicester has eight local Acts, and Manchester nearly 80, covering most subjects (not very much, in Manchester, affecting building, though in Leicester building is wholly under statute).

Not only is there this definite right of approach by local authorities to the Imperial Parliament, but Parliament regards its own handiwork in this sphere as peculiarly sacred. While it gave the Local Government Board in 1909 and the Minister in 1923, without any hesitation, the powers I have already mentioned to reform the bye-laws of local authorities, the reform of local Acts which may embody requirements parallel to bye-laws is a different matter. You must therefore recognise that any steps you want to take to bring into line with the ordinary law those places where local Acts exist, be these old or new, be they good or bad, must be taken by agreement, and this is one advantage of the course the British Steelwork Association have suggested, namely, that local authorities themselves should be given power, without recourse to Parliament, to modify their local Acts.

In speaking of local Acts of Parliament, do not, however, over-estimate their effect or geographical extent. I have already said that most of the local Acts passed in recent years are unlikely to have an adverse effect on building, and the areas where local Acts of an old and obstructive type exist, or indeed the areas where there are any local Acts at all, are few in number, taking the country as a whole. Still, so far as local legislation does affect you, its consolidation and its critical examination, to see whether it contains undue restrictions, is a worthy object of your reforming zeal—and here I must refer to London. From the paper which I read in 1922 London was entirely excluded. I have been asked especially to speak of it to-night, and indeed cannot avoid it, after your letter, Mr. President, in *The Times* of 18 July, and the deputation which your Institute, with other bodies, sent to the Minister on the 30th of that month, when it was found that every point they raised was a London point. A little later appeared a report by a Technical Committee of the London Employers' Association, avowedly directed to the London law, but it is interesting to find that all, or almost all, their adverse comments would not be applicable elsewhere. Not only,

therefore, is the law in force in London of peculiar importance to building and industries such as structural steel, which are involved with building, but there are, shall I say, some well-instructed persons who think the law in London is imperfect. A letter written by the Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry to a Member of Parliament was published last July, in which she mentioned that we in the Ministry had not had evidence of actual cases of hardship amongst architects and builders, caused by the provisions as to steelwork in the London Building Acts. This statement, drawn from official records, was commented on by the Deputation later in the month, who mentioned that a movement to hasten the bringing up to date of the building law in London had been going on, in or under the auspices of your Institute, for many years. Here is another illustration of what I have so often said—that you do not tell us of your troubles—and, indeed, it is by no means unknown for architects to urge that certain features of the London law should be extended to the provinces. We did indeed get in 1925 a neostyled circular from the Institute informing us of some preliminary steps, and after most of this paper of mine had been completed I received from a private source much further information, as to intervening steps of which we had not heard. But let that pass. The important thing for London, and the important thing for building, is to ensure that whatever modifications are essential are at least begun with the least possible delay. The Deputation which waited on the Minister put many grievances before him, and he has been assured that the County Council, now that their Consolidation Act of 1930 has been passed, which for the first time for some years makes the law accessible within reasonable compass, mean to proceed with considering amendments. It will be evident, when the building law in almost every provincial town, including those of the largest size and greatest industrial development, has been reviewed within the last few years, that in London the task could be advantageously considered. As for the substance of the law, a consolidating Act, embodying an Act of 1894, which itself was largely a consolidation of earlier enactments, must call for review if not revision, while even the supplementing and amending Acts which have now found their way in consolidated form into the Act of 1930 are much older than most of the corresponding law to be found elsewhere in England. In saying this I am stating a chronological fact which in itself proves nothing more than that the time for review (to say the least) has come.

As for the form of law, I note that in June 1926 your Institute adopted a suggestion, thrown out by the present Superintending Architect of the London County Council, that as much of the London law as possible should be put into the flexible form of bye-

laws, instead of the strait waistcoat of an Act of Parliament—a suggestion which, for the provinces, the Departmental Committee had made some years before, and one which, for the provinces, Parliament now regularly follows.

One advantage would be that the actual, substantive, amendments could be dealt with in rotation. If a Bill in Parliament is to be promoted, expense, if nothing else, requires that everything which can be anticipated shall be put into the Bill, and this obviously draws out the preliminary consultations. Whatever your procedure, consideration and consultation is required; you cannot simply rush your project into legislative form.

If the London County Council should feel moved to take a bye-law-making power instead of keeping all their building legislation in the form of Acts of Parliament, they could deal with it year by year, beginning with whatever amendments are the most important and, after working through the whole, would have a building law comparable in size as well as in flexibility with that enjoyed by towns like Liverpool and Birmingham. You must realise, however, that this preliminary question, of the form of law, is for the County Council to determine. The Government can do little except supply the results which have been achieved elsewhere.

Apart from the London Building Act there are in London a few series of bye-laws made by the County Council and confirmed by the Minister of Health, the only important ones affecting building being the regulations for reinforced concrete, made before the War, which are legally equivalent to bye-laws, and those with respect to drainage and with respect to water closets, earth closets, and so forth, which in another context I have already mentioned. The regulations for concrete have no provincial parallel, the view being taken alike by us and by local authorities at large that it is inexpedient to have a detailed code, a view which applies also to steel framing, with which I shall deal later. The bye-laws as to drainage and water closets were brought up to date this year. "Brought up to date" is another chronological expression. It is improbable that the new bye-laws of the London County Council will be followed in provincial towns, for which the model bye-laws, revised once again this year, are better suited—although the City Corporation, a separate authority for bye-law-making purposes, have been urged by the Minister to bring their corresponding bye-laws also up to date, and have been informed that he would accept for the City clauses agreeing with those of the County Council, instead of bye-laws of a more normal form and content.

Still, bye-laws form a small part of the London building law, and in consolidating their building Acts in 1894 and again this year, the County Council have

set a good example to other local authorities who have building Acts in force. It is for you, the public of London, to say, and to make your wishes felt, how badly you want amendment of the new consolidating Act, and in what shape.

No account of the public control of building in or out of London can be adequate without a reference to town planning, but town planning is too vast a subject to treat adequately in a forty-minute lecture covering many other things. You will find a popular account in *The Listener* for 15 October, and a shorter and more technical note in the Statement already cited, prepared for the Steel Structures Research Conference on the 16th of that month. Town planning controls the use of land, by a scheme formulated in advance by a local authority or combination of local authorities. The scheme may set out what classes of buildings may and may not be erected (such as commercial and residential buildings), on what lands and at what density; what new roads shall be made or existing roads widened, and (here overlapping or rather replacing earlier powers) what are to be the building lines. It may require open spaces, control advertisements and petrol stations, govern the elevation of buildings, and generally contain provisions for amenities. Height of buildings, almost never touched in bye-laws, though sometimes (as in London) found in local Acts, is likely to be a subject for town planning.

Like bye-laws, town planning schemes require confirmation by the Minister, which can be given only after full publicity. Indeed, the publicity required is much more elaborate, partly because there are more stages to go through, partly because the authorising Act of Parliament is so drawn that many more matters can be included in a scheme than in bye-laws, and partly because a town planning scheme takes effect as if enacted in the Town Planning Act; that is, it cannot be challenged in the Courts in the same way that bye-laws can be challenged even after they have come into effect. As against this disability, however, a person affected adversely by a scheme has in many matters a right to compensation. So far, I believe, between thirty and forty schemes have full legal force, but Parliament has contemplated their covering the country. All this, town planning schemes on the top of bye-laws, and local Acts overlapping both, is—I grant this freely to the critics—unpleasantly confusing. We have long had a memorandum, sent out in hundreds to our correspondents, which tries to set out the main lines of building law—general as well as local—for remember that much building law is in the Public Health Acts or other Acts applying generally, and some of these are of the first importance. Unless I had at my disposal the six lectures I mentioned at the outset, I could not pretend to deal in detail with these Acts. Nor need I do so. I have said enough about these

different forms of controlling building, general Acts, local Acts, bye-laws, and town planning schemes, to lead to one conclusion I am going to put before you—that instead of flogging the dead horse of restrictive bye-laws which the Minister has been killing for you while the public shut its eyes and grumbled, you should fix your eyes on codification, or more logical arrangement of the Statute law, as one of your first objects—including the replacement of static and unprogressive forms of law where these remain.

My second suggestion looks to the interpretation and application of the law. In everything that I read of the difficulties, real or fancied, as the law now stands, there is an undercurrent—that the means of interpretation, in a wide sense, and application of the law of building—whatever be the form of that law—is found unsatisfactory. As the President of the Institute of Plumbers, himself an experienced member of a local authority, put it to me recently, “the client feels he has no remedy,” when told by the local authority that something must or must not be done.

The Departmental Committee of 1918 recommended, therefore, that there should be introduced a summary procedure, under which a building owner could obtain from the magistrates at negligible cost a determination of the question whether or not his plan was in accordance with the law—could obtain it, that is, without starting work and waiting to be prosecuted. No reform which I can think of, of our building law, holds greater promise than this, if it can be brought about.

Week by week and day by day, persons, occasionally architects, occasionally builders, but much more often householders or property owners without professional assistance, seek the Minister's support in some dispute affecting building, and, while it is not unknown to be asked to assist a householder who has been injured by the carelessness of his architect or builder, or by the conduct of a neighbour, most of the complaints are against the action of local authorities. Sometimes it would do more harm than good to approach the local authority on the complainant's behalf, but often there is some misunderstanding which can be cleared away by correspondence, and in fact we do much work in forwarding complaints, sometimes paraphrased or bowdlerised, sometimes unintelligible, until we have found what the local authority on its side has to say. So the national Government can influence day-to-day administration of the law of building (and indeed of other matters, for it is not only complaints affecting building which can be thus treated), by bringing to the notice of particular local authorities what is being done by more enlightened authorities elsewhere, by calling their attention to cases where they have exceeded their legal powers, perhaps by a misunderstanding of the law, and by suggesting—

this is very frequent—amendments of local bye-laws which have been found to cause some difficulty. It is no part of the Government's duty to give gratuitous advice, and deprive a deserving profession of its 6s. 8d., and indeed to do so might be unjust even to the person by whom advice was sought. He might act on the advice and find that it was wrong, for Government Departments are no more infallible on the rare occasions when you want their help than they are as fallible as you believe at other times. There is much that can be done without overstepping the legal and constitutional limits which this country sets upon the power of her Ministers, and (once more I say it) send us an official letter if you think a local authority is wrong. But we cannot oust the Courts, and speedy justice in the Courts should be in the forefront of your programme.

I have said that the framing and administration of the building law, except so far as it is embodied in an Act of Parliament, belongs in English law to the local authority of the place where the building is. Some months ago a London leader writer launched a wild suggestion—that every part of the law affecting building should be embodied in one "code" (this in its context evidently meant an Order of a Minister) and that it should be administered by a central authority. The suggestion was supported by references to the present law which in detail were characteristically wrong, but putting the law of building into a governmental Order would be possible if Parliament saw fit. There are objections to it, which I discussed in my paper of 1922, among them being one which should appeal to you, namely, that any centralised legislation of this kind would be almost bound to impose more restrictions than now exist in areas and on topics which so far have been happily left free.

Then as to day-to-day administration of the law of building—in one paper which advocated its transfer to the Government, who were to give a "visa" which nobody would question, another writer began an article as follows: "The monster of bureaucracy continues to swell out its unlovely form and straddle more and more ominously our unhappy land." This is fine, ranting, stuff. And it would be interesting to see the writer swell and straddle over the new bureaucrats required to give the "visa" of Government to all new building plans. Of course, the building industry would not consent to send all plans to Whitehall, nor could Whitehall deal with them except by an enlargement of staff which the House of Commons could not be expected to provide. No competent administrator would dream of such a thing. Also, the control of building does not end with approving plans. If public control of building is to be preserved, the public supervision of the actual work must be upon the spot. At present it is an official of the local authority who does

it (where it is done at all: remember this parenthesis). The suggestion for national administration of the law of building means therefore (if anything at all, which I much doubt), firstly that control would be extended to work which without detriment to anyone is now left alone; and next that the officials, who must be stationed locally, would be controlled not by the elected local authority but by the national Government. It is difficult to see what public advantage would accrue. Greater uniformity in supervision, possibly, but supervision (so far as necessary at all) involves dealing from day to day with details on which it is doubtful whether greater uniformity could be attained unless by issuing voluminous rules or by constantly referring doubtful points to headquarters. Public complaint has (rightly or wrongly) recently been made that even in London, geographically small, the rules issued for the supervisory officials, and the delays caused by their references to the County Council, are vexatious—and if central supervision of building throughout the country were introduced, similar, but intensified, complaints would be inevitable; supervision would be rendered slower, and more mechanical, and so no more acceptable to industry that it is at present. No. That cock won't fight.

What the building world requires is, firstly, freedom so far as public opinion will allow. In some countries public opinion is content to leave building very much alone, but here, following evils which Dickens and Kingsley have made familiar to us, the legislature pursued a different course, and in the last quarter of the last century legal intervention reached high-water mark. The building trade legitimately asks that the law shall recognise improvements not merely in technique but in its public spirit, and that the control of 30 years ago shall be relaxed, if it is no longer needed. But by 1900 public control of building had been accepted as the law of nature, and many had come to feel that the burden of proof was on those who said that any particular work should not be subject to control. This attitude has by no means been abandoned, and one of our commonest experiences, when architects and builders are consulted, is to find that they demand not more liberty, but less, that they kiss the rod and urge that work can be done only in one way and that no alternatives should be permitted. Nevertheless the wheel has so far turned that the idea embodied by the Local Government Board in the model byelaws, years before I entered the Service of the Crown, is gaining ground: the idea that buildings where large capital is staked are likely to comply at least with ordinary requirements of stability and sanitation—so that freedom is not dangerous.

A second axiom, or if you prefer a corollary from the first, is that the law shall be constantly reviewed and, in that portion of the law which covers much the

greater part of England and Wales and much the largest number of building operations, namely, bye-laws, this has been achieved. But the building trade may legitimately urge that this is not enough, and claim it as an axiom that so much of the law affecting them as happens to be in statutory form ought to be reviewed at frequent intervals, and, when once brought up to date, ought to be put so far as practicable into a form capable of further review without undue formality. In the Liverpool Corporation Act, 1921, not only were the local Acts of a century consolidated, but numerous direct provisions of those Acts affecting building were turned into powers to make bye-laws. (In passing, I may say that Liverpool used those powers in 1922, and now have completed a revision of their handiwork, that is, have twice in eight years revised their building law.)

A third request, a postulate if not an axiom, which you may properly put forward, is that Parliament itself in the region which it reserves for its own direct control shall cure the confusion, in the general statutes with which builders are concerned, which the Departmental Committee pointed out twelve years ago. The Local Government Board in their circular letter of 1877 claimed for a person who has to obey the law that he shall be able to discover what the law demands. Logically this demand is not less cogent when addressed to Parliament than when addressed to a subordinate law-making authority—even though there is not the means, which Parliament has provided as against the subordinate authority, of enforcing the demand. The consolidation of the Public Health Acts, when effected, will be a great step in advance, and everybody hopes that it will be followed by consolidation of other branches of the law connected with building, and with local government. Carry the process into local legislation, and you will be very near the goal—the greatest practicable freedom and, where control is unavoidable, the greatest practicable comprehensibility. This could all be done if public opinion were brought to bear on Parliament. You can hardly expect the ordinary voter to care about these things, but professional opinion, and the opinion of those commercially interested in building, ought to count for enough to secure in this sphere such consolidation as the mercantile community (for example) has secured in the Acts governing Partnership, Companies, Bills of Exchange, and Merchant Shipping. Departments of Government favour consolidation because it simplifies their work, apart from any worthier interest. We in the Ministry are committed to a programme, in which Poor Law, Housing and Town Planning have been already done, and I do not forget that the Institute

has urged us already to press on with the Public Health Acts. But even for consolidation there are competing claims on the time of Parliamentary Committees, and it is for those who want a particular subject dealt with to assert themselves.

The fourth, and in some respects the greatest of your needs, as I construe them, is speedy and inexpensive justice—surely an axiom. Various suggestions have been made from time to time. The conferring of exclusive jurisdiction on the Minister and the setting up of special tribunals to deal locally with disputes on building, both suggestions involving elimination of the ordinary Courts, were examined by the Departmental Committee and rejected. For Parliamentary and practical reasons, they are not worth pursuing. You are thus thrown back on three ideas—an obligation, imposed on a local authority which rejects a plan, to state its reasons (this lies at the root of everything), then a voluntary jurisdiction exercised by the Minister by agreement as at present, and, where there is not agreement to lay the case before him, a speedy resort to the Courts at the most convenient stage. These ideas involve no outrage on the Constitution and no interference with the Courts. You will have noticed in the press that in the last few months the commercial community, particularly in the City of London, has declared for reform in the procedure of the Courts. In your own sphere you might co-operate with them, so that instead of having to seek a costly and dilatory answer in the High Court to your building problems, you could get it from the magistrates.

These then are the aims :—

Firstly, freedom from control where control is not essential.

Secondly, that control which is out of date in substance, as in the older local Acts, shall be brought into line with modern needs, and into a form susceptible, like bye-laws, of speedy revision in the future.

Thirdly, that the Statutes affecting building be consolidated for the sake of accessibility and comprehensibility.

Fourthly, that procedure be devised, consistent with settled English modes of thought, by which I mean the paramountcy of the ordinary Courts, for settling disputed points.

You cannot attain your ends by asking Parliament to depart from what it has accepted as guiding principles of action, and, I beg of you, concentrate on genuine remedies ; do not waste your time over statements which can be proved to be untrue, and do not waste your strength on bygone grievances.

Stick to fact, and shun the rhetorician.

[The Vote of Thanks and the Discussion on Mr. Shelley's Paper will be published in the next issue of the JOURNAL.]

Architects (Registration) Bill Second Reading

COMMUNICATED BY C. McARTHUR BUTLER [L.], *Secretary of the R.I.B.A. Registration Committee.*

Although as stated by Sir Banister Fletcher, President of the R.I.B.A., in his Inaugural Address, the supporters of the Bill did not have any luck in the Ballot, yet through the kind offices of Lt.-Col. T. C. Moore, M.P., the Bill was read a first time in the present Session and was put down for Second Reading in the House of Commons on Friday, November 7th.

Col. Moore, in moving the Second Reading of the Bill, gave an outline of the Parliamentary history of the measure since it was first introduced in 1927, and went on to say that they recognised that all interested parties had their rights and all kindred Institutions their views on the subject, and if the Bill was given a Second Reading the promoters would be prepared to consider any reasonable proposals which might make the Bill a more efficient means of securing the object they had in view. He emphasised the imperial aspect of the R.I.B.A. with its first Charter dating from the reign of William IV and its many Allied Societies both at home and abroad and spoke of the way in which architecture touched the common life of the country, and of the necessity for creating a standard of architectural education and purpose which would still further maintain the profession as the custodian of British architecture in the future.

Col. Moore then dealt with some of the Clauses of the Bill and pointed out that it was proposed to set up a Register of Architects to include, in the first place, all bona fide architects and their assistants without examination, and to give them five years in which to apply for admission to the Register, and it would be the duty of a Committee to see that admission to the Register was confined to persons who had the necessary qualifications. There was to be set up a Board of Architectural Education and Examination to train and test the qualifications of subsequent candidates; and there would be a Discipline Committee on which would be representatives of the Law Society and the Ministry of Health, for the purpose of dealing with breaches of professional etiquette, subject to aggrieved persons having the right of appeal to a Court of Law. They wanted to apply the same reasonable restrictions to the profession of architecture as were applied in the case of doctors, lawyers, and members of other learned professions, and to ensure that no one was entered upon the Register without first showing that he had the necessary qualifications to hold himself out to give adequate and useful services to the public who employed him.

Col. Moore then dealt with the point which had been raised on other occasions against the Bill regarding persons in poor circumstances being precluded from

entering the profession, and proceeded to quote statistics showing that architecture was not, and would not be, if the Bill was passed, a closed profession. He pointed out that the R.I.B.A. provided bursaries and scholarships for the purpose of ensuring that all, irrespective of their circumstances in life, might have an opportunity of entering the profession. He referred to the ridiculous comedy of deception which was going on at the present time when persons without any qualifications might hold themselves out to be architects and said it was desired to set up a standard of architectural attainment for the protection of the public. The Bill showed they were prepared to bring onto the Register all who at present had any legitimate claims for admission and that they wished to ensure that the title "Registered Architect" would have a definite value in the eyes of the public. They had taken every precaution, as would be seen from the Schedules of the Bill, to bring together representatives of all bodies interested in architecture, and kindred professions, so that their experience might be brought to bear for the general benefit of all future members of the architectural profession and therefore the public.

Mr. Ben Tillett, in seconding the motion, said he had spent all his active life in organising workers into amalgamations and federations and he knew of no profession which called for national organisation more than that of architecture. From enquiries he had made he had satisfied himself that every legitimate claim would be met by the sponsors of the Bill. Mr. Tillett said he wished to see this body of professional men organised. The architect inquired on the intimate relationships of domestic life in his work, more particularly for the housing of the people and the erection of factories and mills and public buildings. In the rehousing schemes of Holland and the creation of Garden Cities there, the architects, under the control of their Association, had lent the State important aid, and he wanted to see some such organisation in this country. There ought to be no class bias, and if he had thought the ordinary worker would not have every opportunity to contribute with his brains, skill and experience to this great profession, he would be the last to support the measure. He did not believe that the last word would ever be said in architecture, and this was the first chance he ever remembered being offered to the House of Commons to call together the brains, the skill, the craftsmanship, and the art, of an important profession.

Col. Sinclair, in supporting the Second Reading of the measure, said that it had the whole-hearted support of the

architects of Northern Ireland and that there was no doubt that the introduction of a system of registration for architects would have a beneficial effect both morally and materially upon the profession and upon the community generally. Architects in this country ought to have facilities for conducting examinations and exercising disciplinary powers, like the Law Society, the Dental Board, and the General Medical Council. He pointed out how the passing of the Dentists Act in 1921 had raised the standard of that profession by regulating the practice of dentistry, with the result that all former abuses had been swept away. The advantages of registration were obvious, and he failed to understand any of the objections which had been raised to it. Any person might continue to be his own architect if he did not wish to employ a Registered Architect, but the public had a right to know when seeking an architect that those who used the term "Registered Architect" had the necessary qualifications for the due discharge of their duties. After the inclusion of all architects at present qualified there would then be admitted to the Register others who had passed through a proper course of training. He hoped that eventually the architects would be given powers which would enable them to supervise the education of the rising architect, examine and grant diplomas to students, and exercise disciplinary power to disbar or strike off the Register members of the profession who had been guilty of unprofessional conduct in any respect. He hoped the Bill would not be regarded in any sense a party matter and that it would have the support of members in all parts of the House.

During the latter part of Col. Sinclair's speech notice was taken that 40 members were not present. The House was counted and 40 members being present the debate was resumed.

Mr. Mills, in voicing opposition to the Bill, said that in his opinion Sub-section 1 (d) of Clause 5 would definitely rule out certain workers attending Technical Schools from obtaining admission to a higher profession, to which their attainments should entitle them. He was whole-heartedly in favour of some system similar to the old guild system in Britain which might bring together the architect and the builder, and in order to go forward it was necessary to sweep all organisations small and great together in one big forward movement, and unless they could get from the promoters of the Bill an assurance that other kindred Associations would have their rights safeguarded, he would have no alternative than to oppose the Bill.

Mr. Shakespeare pointed out that if ever a Bill had been subject to the scrutiny of Parliamentary procedure and debate it was this Bill. Not only had it been before a Select Committee, but it had been passed through the House of Lords, and it was only by a Parliamentary trick that it was not now on the Statute Book. He stated that he thought the point made by the last speaker was a good one. He had been assured by the promoters that they were desirous during the Committee stage to consider all possible objections, because they did not want to get a Bill like this by compulsion, but by acquiescence. A great majority of members with whom he had discussed it, welcomed the principle of the Bill. It was one that could be highly commended as being in accord with the tendency of modern

social and economic life, that bodies of men were trying to make themselves more efficient and more able to render service to the community, and he did not think the House had the right to deny to the oldest and most honourable profession the facilities which had been given to other professions to raise the standard of efficiency.

Mr. March stated he had been asked by a member of a kindred Institution to oppose the Bill on the ground that the promoters had not given reasonable consideration to the claims of their Association and asked that this Bill should be adjourned or opposed until the promoters had given them a full opportunity of discussing their views. He hoped that there would be delay in pushing this Bill through, or if the House happened to give it a Second Reading, that the promoters would be prepared, when the Bill went to a Committee, to accept amendments which would meet the views of those who are not inclined to agree to the clauses of the Bill at the moment.

Sir Martin Conway said he had been acquainted for a great many years with the movement that was incorporated in the Bill and it was in Committee that such questions as had been raised opposing the measure could be fought out and settled. He was able to give an assurance that so far as the R.I.B.A. was concerned they were ready to endeavour to meet all reasonable objections and satisfy all legitimate criticism.

Other professions had been brought under registration with the best effect and the movement was one directly in accordance with the general tendency of social organisation and of legislation of the present day. He pointed out that as a rule University representatives are not often approached by their constituents to support this or that measure, but on this occasion he had received an unusual number of requests that he should support the Bill and he was very glad to do so.

Mr. Short [*the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department*] indicated the attitude of the Government towards the Bill which had experienced a somewhat chequered career in the hands of the House of Commons, and though there had been no really hostile criticism that afternoon, there appeared to be a divergence of opinion among architects themselves in regard to some of the provisions of the Bill. It might be well, if the Bill reached the Committee stage, that an attempt should be made to secure an agreement in these matters. In so far as the need for more adequate and proper education in architecture was concerned they could all agree; on the other hand there were some who held that a measure of this kind was inclined to create a close corporation, and architecture was different from other professions in that it was a creative art. It would be unfortunate if art should be robbed of some of the greatest artists because they were not registered. He was here expressing his own views; the attitude of the Government was that they would leave the Bill entirely to the free vote of the House.

Mr. Broad said that nobody objected to a body of professional men desiring for their own interest a properly constituted association, but he did not think it was the work of Parliament to give to such an organisation compulsory power to enrol members, and he thought that the object in view was not so much to raise the standard of architecture as to enable them to maintain their profession for a

certain class, and therefore he was opposed to it. He wanted the keen young man to be able to improve himself so as to rise in his profession, whereas by the proposed legislation they were saying once a carpenter always a carpenter and so on, and they could never become architects. From the point of view of the liberty of all men in all trades to rise in their profession he hoped the House would reject the Bill and say to the members of the archi-

tectural profession that if they desired to raise the status of their calling they should follow the example of the workers' organisations and join their own organisation and by their interest in it make it a success without coming to Parliament to exclude better men than themselves from it.

The question was then put and agreed to and the Bill was read a Second Time and committed to a Standing Committee.

Reviews

UNKNOWN ENGLAND.

By ARTHUR F. E. POLEY.

LITTLE KNOWN ENGLAND. By H. D. Eberlein. 80. Lond. 1930. [Batsford.] 12s. 6d.

The turning of but a few pages of Mr. Eberlein's beautifully illustrated book *Little Known England* is sufficient to give an impression of its great worth. At a time when so much is being said and written anent the preservation of the English countryside a work such as this is of real value and comes as a welcome addition to Messrs. B. T. Batsford's already extensive library on rural England. It must inevitably tend, the more widely it is read, to strengthen the hands of those who are striving to preserve and retain our wealth of artistic and historic buildings.

The number of illustrations is quite remarkable in a book so modestly priced and they are all well chosen for their purpose to kindle in the reader enthusiasm for the bits, or masses, of antiquity set amidst such beautiful surroundings as those in which they are generally to be found and which together form so distinctive a heritage of our land. The photographs are noticeable for the picturesqueness of the views taken when representing, for the most part, objects of architectural or historical interest, although tracts of country are frequently shown. But good as the photographs are, and indispensable to a work of this nature, the reader will probably take chief delight in the charming hand-drawn illustrations with which they are freely interspersed.

The drawings of a dozen or so artists are represented, and they mostly reveal by their softness of touch the feeling, one may say love, which the artists had for the subjects portrayed. The exquisite drawings by Mr. Sydney R. Jones, of which there are eleven, and Mr. W. Curtis Green, A.R.A., to mention two draughtsmen only, serve to show the undeniable superiority of hand-drawn human sketches over the photograph, while at the same time they need lose none of the latter's truthfulness in regard to detail. Figs. 12 and 17, by Mr. Sydney R. Jones, showing the Porch of the Old Grammar School, Weobley, and The Entrance, Owlpen Manor House, respectively, and also Figs. 21 and 22 by the same artist together with Mr. W. Curtis Green's drawing of Upper Slaughter, Plate XIX, may perhaps be singled out for special appreciation. In passing, it may be remarked how much more attractive this latter name becomes when the author tells us that it is derived from *Sloe Tree* through an intermediate stage *Slotre*.

Throughout his book Mr. Eberlein manifests a praiseworthy jealousy of the moderniser. As he very truly remarks—"there need be no divorce between the utilitarian and the picturesque." Yet how seldom do the two go hand-in-hand, especially if the picturesque has to make way to accommodate the utilitarian.

In his text the author reveals not only a passion for his subject, but his happy, companionable and often humorous style has the power of carrying the reader with him and of arousing a desire to venture on just such a ramble of discovery as the author advocates, and for which the latter's personal experiences have fitted him to be both the instigator and guide. His pages are often enlivened by historical anecdote, or bits of information and tips regarding some particular locality, as when he observes—"Remember that the Chiltern's indigenous industry of chair-turning is always of interest and a local worker can with a little persuasion be coaxed to turn a chair leg as a memento in your presence in his shed." Doubtless, too, it will be of general interest to learn that from Sir Walter Scott's association with the neighbourhood of Ivinghoe it is said he drew the title for *Ivanhoe*.

No matter how extensive the territory covered and how diverse the buildings under notice, extending from the Welsh border (south of Shrewsbury) to the North Sea, the author's knowledge, whether geographical, geological, horticultural, historical or architectural, enables him to treat informatively at every point. And in the matter of architecture, whether domestic or ecclesiastical, he is a sure guide to the styles, periods, etc., of the buildings to which he would have his readers' interest drawn.

Very naturally some difficulty is found in drawing a hard line between the *little known* and the *known*, or *well known*, and brief reference has frequently to be made to better known landmarks if only as an aid to one's whereabouts, or as a convenient centre from which to explore more remote parts. The chief "points" of such parts are specified, and some indication is given of the best way of getting to them. Space no doubt prevented a more detailed description of the places mentioned; moreover, the book purports to help the tourist by way of suggestion rather than to supply that which would give him greater pleasure to discover for himself. The book, nevertheless, makes most pleasurable reading, and after perusing its pages one has a sense of possessing a much greater knowledge of the counties described than one had hitherto.

The reader is introduced to the charm of the half-timbered architecture of Shropshire and Herefordshire; his admiration is increased for the stone-built manors and farm houses of the Cotswolds in Gloucestershire, and for the characteristic buildings of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire; he is then guided through the Eastern Counties of Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk, with an ever-growing feeling that each different county has its share of the beautiful, and that the more intimately it becomes known the richer it becomes in its distinctive though often out-of-the-way charms.

A summary of the four districts covered, with the inclusion of some practical touring hints, together with five reference maps drawn to a large scale, completes a volume which would enrich any library. Indeed, in point of view of the library shelves, added to the interest of the contents of the book itself, one might have thought a little extra expense on the binding would have been worth while. The book is light and of a size convenient to handle, the type very legible, and the paper stout and of good quality.

TWO NEW METHODS OF PERSPECTIVE PROJECTION.

By G. D. GORDON HAKE [F.].

PERSPECTIVE PROJECTION. By ERNEST IRVING FREESE. *Sm. fo. New York, 1930. [Pencil Press.] 7s. 6d.*

THE NEW PERSPECTIVE FOR THE ARCHITECT. By PROF. ADOLF REILE. *Translated from the German by Alfred Metscher. Sm. fo. [Los Angeles, 1930]. [Priv. prin.] £1 8s.*

Both these books are written by architects, and both claim to have abolished the drudgery of elaborate construction lines. Mr. Freese relies on simple orthographic projection by means of any T and set square, whereas the system set forth by the German professor is based on the use of the "Reile Perspective" T square, to which is linked a straight edge.

Of the two systems, that of Mr. Freese seems to open up greater possibilities to the perspective draughtsman. In it vanishing points are eliminated. His chapter on "Expedients" is full of quick, easy methods of addition, division and multiplication of spaces, on the perspective drawing itself, by means of what he calls "The Magic Diagonal" and "The Eternal Triangle." Interior perspective is dealt with by the same method, and at the end of the book are examples of the author's simple rendering in pen and ink. The mastery of this system depends, as the author points out, on the careful working out of examples until facility comes, almost as second nature.

The Reile method is very fully explained and illustrated. Interior perspective, reflections, and shadow projection in perspective are thoroughly discussed, but one feels that this book has not the same direct appeal as that published by the Pencil Points Press. Possibly an hour's demonstration with the special T square would leave one more enthusiastic.

ROMAN BRITAIN

By A. E. HENDERSON [F.].

THE ARCHÆOLOGY OF ROMAN BRITAIN. By R. G. Collingwood, M.A. *La. 8o. Lond. 1930. [Methuen.] 16s.*

There are a great number of books and articles upon the Romans in Britain. This additional one is of interest, as it gives a concise statement of well-reasoned facts and careful notes to works of reference. Roads, camps, towns, pottery,

coinage, works of military and domestic use and burial are clearly placed before the reader.

Architecture is also touched upon by chapters upon walls, towers, town and country houses, and, in fact, all the inanimate objects of an archaeological survey. But in a general work such as this it would have been of interest to have been informed how the common soldier lived and what he did in his off time; again, when an officer settled as a farmer, did he have a large retinue of Romans and Britons, and what did he cultivate? Did Britain bring a large revenue to the Roman exchequer? If so, from whom was it collected, and how? It is obvious that the Romans would not have pushed forward to the Forth and Clyde if they had not been certain that the terrene behind these lines would be profitable. By the distribution of their towns and camps we know that they had an excellent military and police force, with the probability that the native population was well cared for and treated with consideration, for intermarriage took place extensively.

TWENTIETH CENTURY SCULPTORS. By Stanley Casson. *La. 8o. Oxford, 1930. 9s. [Oxford University Press.]*

Mr. Casson's book of the year before last *Some Modern Sculptors* will be gratefully remembered by many architects as a lucid and valuable introduction to the work of some of the leading sculptors from Rodin to Epstein.

The sculptor modeller was represented by Rodin, Baryl, Maillol and Bourdelle, the new movement of direct stone writing by such men as Mestrovic and Eric Gill. The last chapter was devoted to Epstein and dramatic sculpture—Epstein from the author's point of view. This year he follows up his earlier book with another, treating some twentieth century sculptors who have only lately been generally known and recognised, in the same manner. Milles, the great Swede, with his architectural guise, and his great feeling for the expression of his national demands. Paul Manship, whose inspiration is the work of the earliest ages in Greece but who brings their freshness to the Hellenic tradition into modern work. Kolbe's work illustrates the tendencies of the past 30 years of the century: Archipenko and Zadkine, and the German artists of the Inorganic School, show some of its experiments. The place of Epstein in the earlier book is taken by a very sympathetic appreciation of that unassuming but true artist, Frank Dobson; while the next chapter, "Points of View," and the last three, "Epilogue for Artists," "Public Sculpture," and "Prospects" lucidly meet criticism of the author's theories in the earlier book, and give some very sound guidance for the public appreciation of sculpture to-day. The method of both books is most admirable—each chapter is followed by three to six beautiful photographs of representative work by the sculptor, with short explanatory notes. The illustrations are worth a great deal, only the most sympathetic photographs can give any idea of sculpture, but these really do recall the noble works or introduce them to those who have not had the good fortune to see them. One wishes that Mr. Casson might go on again, to the still younger sculptors, the young men and women who are to-day working in semi obscurity, and help architects with work to give to find fitting hands to put it into.

H. C. H.

HOT CEMENT.

BY ALAN E. MUNBY [F.].

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH :
BUILDING RESEARCH BULLETIN No. 7.—HOT
CEMENT. Price 4d. net.

Architects have been in the habit of requiring that Portland cement shall be cooled to air temperature before use, and this investigation is of interest as deciding the value of this injunction. American investigations have shown that little importance need be attached to the temperature of cement of good quality. Cement often leaves the grinding mills at as high a temperature as 140° C. (284° F.), and by the use of vacuum flasks such cement was collected and was actually made up for testing at a temperature of 120° C. within four hours of manufacture. Tensile tests on the usual 1:3 mixture showed that mortar a month old is 16.5 per cent. less strong made with cement at 122° C. than with cement at air temperature, but still strong enough to pass the B.E.S.A. specification. Temperature was found to produce little effect on the compression strength of 1:2:4 concrete test pieces, probably due to dissipation of heat from the relatively small cement content. A practical test made by laying a section of roadway with concrete, using hot cement, gave no evidence of any detriment. As it is obviously hardly possible in practice that cement could come into use at the temperatures of the experiments, the conclusion reached is that the use of "hot cement" on works is unimportant.

HOME GROWN TIMBERS.

BY ALAN E. MUNBY [F.].

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH :
FOREST PRODUCTS RESEARCH BULLETIN No. 7.—
HOME GROWN TIMBERS: ELM. F.P.R. Laboratory,
August 1930. 3s. 6d. net.

Elm is so essentially one of our own timbers that a greater knowledge of its properties cannot fail to be of interest, and this bulletin of 27 pages, concluding with 11 plates of microphotographs, deals with the structure and physical properties of this wood. There are eight well-marked varieties of elm in this country, three of which have been selected for investigation, namely, *Ulmus campestris*, *montana* and *major*. Sapwood and heartwood are readily distinguishable in elm, which is a tough wood. Its reputation for cross-grain and warping are said to be partly due to the common use of hedge-row trees, and if this can be substantiated it provides a useful hint on the selection of this timber. Wood formed in youth is said to be denser than that formed during the adult period. Various tables are given showing the relation between specific gravity shrinkage and structural growth. The series of microphotographs, showing structure in relation to growth, are interesting and very well reproduced. These plates illustrate the three varieties of elm investigated.

The Library

NOTES BY MEMBERS OF THE LITERATURE COMMITTEE ON
RECENT PURCHASES.

(These Notes are published without prejudice to a further and more detailed criticism.)

MEXICAN HOUSES. By G. R. GARRISON and G. W. RUSTAY. 40. New York [1930]. [Architectural Book Publishing Company.] £3 7s. 6d.

This book is the result of a tour by two American architects for the purpose of studying and recording the smaller and less-known domestic architecture of Mexico—which is of extraordinary interest and value. The survey consists of a concise and well-written description of the history and character of domestic building in the country—with subdivisions according to districts. The illustrations are photographs and measured drawings, both of a high order, and they provide the bulk of the book. Attached to each plate is a note, simply descriptive of the character, materials and colour of the building, and as vegetation plays an important part, the names of trees and flowers are added. These buildings are of a hybrid nature, part Spanish and part local in character, being the work of native craftsmen in the fine Aztec tradition. They date chiefly from the eighteenth century, when Mexico was one of the wealthiest countries in the world. They have, too, a curious link with modern architecture. The book is exceedingly well done in every way.

E. K. D. H.

THE ARCHEOLOGY OF MIDDLESEX AND LONDON.

By C. E. VULLIAMY. Pub. Methuen, crown 80. 10s. 6d.

This is the first of a series of county archaeologies edited by Mr. T. D. Kendrick, Assistant Keeper of British and Mediaeval Antiquities at the British Museum. That in itself is a guarantee of cautious statement. Accordingly we find the author undogmatic as to the origin of London, and as to the place where Caesar forded the Thames. Also he is inclined to be sarcastic about paintings representing Roman and Saxon London. He agrees with Prof. Haverfield that London lay waste and mostly deserted for at least a century after the departure of the Romans. This accounts not only for the paucity of early Saxon remains, but for the obliteration of most of the Roman thoroughfares. A feature of the book is an appendix of early London and Middlesex antiquities in public collections, not only in London, but throughout Britain. There is a bibliography at the end of each chapter. The index does not, however, include all the proper names mentioned.

F. H. M.

ANCIENT CHURCH CHESTS AND CHAIRS. By FRED ROE. Sm. 40. Lond. [1929.] [Bradford.] £1 1s.

This interesting and well-produced work on a little-treated subject must be read in conjunction with the author's previous book, *Ancient Coffers and Cupboards* (1902), and with Mr. P. M. Johnston's *Church Chests* . . . (1908). The home counties only are included and are dealt with topographically. One is especially interested in the fine but mutilated example from Broxbourne, which was a familiar feature in the recent Exhibition of Mediaeval Art; a view of the interesting church itself from which it comes is included to give atmosphere. Mr. Roe's sketches are excellent. There is an index.

H. V. M. R.

THE ANCIENT BRIDGES OF THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND. By E. JERVOISE, A.M.Inst.C.E. (*Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings.*) 80. Lond. [1930]. [*Architectural Press.*] 5s. 6d.

This book owes its inception to the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. The author is an engineer with an enthusiasm for and great knowledge of his subject, and the S.P.A.B. was fortunate in securing his services. Mr. Jervoise's survey has been made systematically river by river, from source to mouth, with historical notes wherever possible.

He is continuing his survey and it is hoped that the results of his labours in the North of England will be published, in due course, in the same concise and attractive form of the present volume. B. O.

SIENA AND THE HILL-TOWNS OF SOUTHERN TUSCANY. (Mirabilia Mundi, Vol. 2.) Text by S. GUYER, DR. BENNO FILSER VERLAG. *Sm. fo. Augsburg.* [1930.] [*Filser.*] 10s.

Siena and the hill-towns of Tuscany are well placed before us in this collection of selected photographs, and the introductory remarks are clear and classic in their criticism.

The rise of Siena to its zenith is told clearly, and its poverty during and after the Renaissance is described as fortunate to us moderns, as much fine work has remained instead of being swept away by the flood of wealth which befell other cities.

In fact it is wonderful how little change there has been in these towns. Siena Cathedral is illustrated and described, but the cathedral is an incident only, some of the streets with flying arches overhead are most picturesquely illustrated.

Also the near-by towns have been searched and good viewpoints chosen to illustrate their charm.

The view of the ruined Cistercian church of S. Gaigano is very reminiscent of Tintern Abbey, while the towers at S. Gimignano remind one of the stout smelting shafts of the Black Country, indeed like these, they were built for utility and not for pleasurable beauty, but seen as the camera finds them they make for fine composition.

This town has many other interests, such as outdoor stairs and colonnades, palaces, churches and paintings. In fact, these little towns in Tuscany would well repay an architect if he were to visit them for study.

A. E. H.

Correspondence

ENGLISH CHURCH ART: "DOSSAL."

20 Sackville Street, W.1.

Regent 7178.

23 October 1930.

To the Editor, JOURNAL R.I.B.A.

DEAR SIR,—Whatever may be the rights of this dispute, I think we will all agree that Mr. Robson's "dorsal" is a little fishy. Samuel Johnson, I find, has a word "dossel" or "dossil" which means a "lump of lint to be laid on a sore." Perhaps that is what is required at the present moment. Percy Dearmer is of the "dorsal" faction.—Yours truly,

T. LAWRENCE DALE.

[The O.E.D. has *dossal*, but gives *dorsal* as a variant; these follow the mediæval Latin forms, *dossale* and *dorsale* respectively, so that there is precedent for each. *Dossil*, a plug of lint, is a separate word.—E.O.]

A SACRED AREA AT ST. PAUL'S

The President has referred in his Inaugural Address to the importance of new regulations being made for erecting buildings in the neighbourhood of historic edifices, such as St. Paul's Cathedral; and it is understood that the Corporation of London are now giving consideration to this question.

In March 1913, Canon Alexander, the present Treasurer of St. Paul's, first drew attention to the need of defining what he called "a sacred area" round the Cathedral, in order to protect it with a line of defence within which no excavations should be allowed which might threaten to drain its foundations, and a letter was addressed to the Lord Mayor on behalf of the Dean and Chapter inviting the Corporation to enter into a general agreement for the purpose of safeguarding the Cathedral against schemes of tunnelling in the vicinity. The proposal was warmly received at the time by the Press, both secular and religious. Canon Alexander has recently taken advantage of the completion of the preservation of the fabric to bring it forward again with renewed emphasis, after securing the unanimous support of the committee of experts who have been responsible for the later stages of the work. It is said that there is a strong feeling in the City that this suggestion should now be made a matter of practical politics.

DICTIONARY OF ARCHITECTURE.

A member of the Institute recently presented to the Library a set of the *Dictionary of Architecture*, of the Architectural Publication Society (*Sm. fo. Lond.* [1853-52] in "parts" as originally issued to subscribers. As the Library already owns several copies of the valuable work, the Literature Committee decided to offer it to the Library of the Australian Institute of Architects. Unfortunately it was afterwards found that one part, "Impact to Iron," was missing. As this incomplete book could, of course, not be offered as a gift, the Committee wishes to appeal to any member who may have an incomplete set of the Dictionary to give the missing part to the R.I.B.A. so that their copy may be completed and forwarded to Australia, where it will be of great use and highly appreciated.

TRIBUNAL OF APPEAL.

The Home Secretary has appointed Mr. Arnold Inman, of 5 Paper Buildings, Temple, to be a member of the Tribunal of Appeal, in succession to the late Mr. A. A. Hudson, K.C.

CHARLES EASTLAKE.

The Institute wishes to obtain, for reproduction, a portrait of Charles Eastlake, its first permanent secretary. If any member has a portrait that he could lend or knows where one may be seen, will he kindly communicate with the Secretary.

NEW GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN WHITEHALL.

The Government has decided that the proposed offices in Whitehall shall be entrusted to an architect in private practice, but the method of selection has not yet been fixed. Before plans can be approved Parliamentary action is required to readjust the Embankment building line of the site to line up with New Scotland Yard, as urged by the Fine Arts Commission.

Garden space on the Embankment side lost through this arrangement would be compensated for by a new open space between the Cenotaph and the Office Building. The views of the L.C.C. on this arrangement have not yet been announced.

REGISTER OF ARCHITECTS WILLING TO TAKE
RECOGNISED SCHOOL STUDENTS INTO THEIR
OFFICES

Attention is drawn to the registers that are kept at the R.I.B.A. of advanced students of Recognised Schools and of architects willing to take such students into their offices.

It is hoped in this way to assist students up to the completion of their qualifications for exemption from the Final Examination, one of the qualifications demanded being twelve months' experience in an office during the fourth and fifth years of the school course.

The Council hope that general use will be made of the registers, and that as many architects as possible will send their names to be placed on the register.

Obituary

R. BANKS-MARTIN [L.].

The death of Mr. R. Banks-Martin occurred at a London Nursing Home on 21 May last, at the age of 60 years. Born in Norfolk, he first came to London about 1894 as assistant to Mr. C. J. Dawson of Barking, and in 1896 started a practice at East Ham, where he built up a successful connection. He had been a Member of the East Ham Council for 26 years and was one of the first Justices appointed for the Borough. He was Mayor from 1914 to 1918 and in 1925 was presented with the Freedom of the Borough in recognition of his services.

His practice was of the general suburban character and included a considerable number of licensed premises. Mr. Banks-Martin was successful in several competitions including that for Ilford Emergency Hospital; other buildings erected under his supervision included Romford Fever Hospital, Romford Cottage Hospital, Barclay's Banks at Woodford and Highams Park, the Central Hotel and the Avenue Hotel, East Ham, reconstruction of the "Bull and Bush," Hampstead, and the rebuilding of the "Green Man," Leytonstone.

A. EATON PAINTER [L.].

The death occurred on September 25 of Mr. A. Eaton Painter, at his residence, The Moors, Moor Lane, Oxley, at the age of fifty-five.

Among local buildings designed by Mr. Painter were the Women's Hospital, the Picturedrome (now the Scala Cinema), Prestwood Sanatorium, Kinver, The Limes Sanatorium, Himley, Sunbeamland, portions of the Moorfield Works of the Sunbeam Motor Car Co., and St. Paul's new Sunday schools, now in course of erection.

CHARLES R. NEWBORN [L.].

Mr. Newborn was educated at the Architectural Association, and the following are some of the works he has carried out during the course of his practice:—Clothing Factory and Offices at Hackney; Reinforced Concrete Factory for Messrs. Polikoff, Ltd.; Wharves and Warehouses at Shad Thames for the proprietors of Butlers Wharf; rebuilding of the London Egg Market (after fire); rebuilding of Kings Arms Yard, Coleman Street; conversion of St. Paul's Chapter House for the City Club; Quantity Surveyor for the new Motor Tyre Works at Burton-on-Trent for Messrs. Pirelli, Ltd.

Mr. Newborn was elected a member of the Quantity Surveyors' Association in 1906, and was made a fellow of the Surveyors' Institution in 1908.

GEORGE W. SMITH [F.].

Allied Societies

HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT
ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION

A general meeting of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Architectural Association was held at the Castle, Winchester, on Friday, October 25. The President of the Association, Mr. J. Arthur Smith, F.R.I.B.A., of Basingstoke, occupied the chair, and was supported by the Vice-Presidents, Lt.-Col. R. F. Gutteridge, T.D., F.R.I.B.A., and Mr. J. W. Mountain, L.R.I.B.A., of Bournemouth, and the Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. L. Roberts, F.R.I.B.A. There were about 20 members present.

The hon. secretary presented the balance sheet for the year 1929-30, showing a very satisfactory state of affairs. On the suggestion of the Chairman it was adopted, and thanks were extended to the hon. secretary and the auditors.

Following the election of various new members as Associates, the hon. secretary made his report. In this he mentioned the meetings which the Council of the Association had had with the Southampton Civic Society to consider the problem of the future of the Bargate. It was a matter in which Sir William Portal was taking the keenest interest, and they were anxious that the mistake made at Canterbury of separating the gate from the walls should not be repeated at Southampton. He also reported that Mr. T. D. Atkinson and Mr. J. A. Sawyer had been elected by the Council to serve on the Advisory Committee of the Winchester Town Planning Committee.

The president said that in view of the progress within the Association and the loyal support of the Royal Institute of British Architects, with which it was allied, he was able to undertake with confidence the task of making his annual address. Numerically, as well as in other ways, it had advanced, and 40 new members during the year had brought the total to nearly 250. The Association thus had increased strength for co-operation with the Institute in the great development scheme upon which they were entering. The two chief features of the scheme were the improved organisation under revised bye-laws, and the reopening of the licentiate class of members. The revised bye-laws had been approved by His Majesty's Privy Council, and, when in force, would operate for the consolidation of the profession and the advance of architecture. They would then be enabled to press forward the Registration Bill, which it was proposed to reintroduce in the next session of Parliament. The Institute was convinced that in this scheme lay the solution of the many difficulties standing in the way of the consolidation of the profession, and obstructing the progress of architecture. With regard to registration, he said it had been suggested in some quarters that the efforts for this had been unsuccessful. This was not the case. It was realised from the beginning that many years of patient persistence would be required to overcome the many difficulties, including those of passing a private Bill through Parliament. Yet in a little more than three years of campaigning the Bill had (1) been given a second reading in the House of Commons; (2) received a favourable verdict from a Select Committee; (3) passed through all the stages in the House of Lords; (4) received a certain measure of Government support; and (5) the interests opposed to it in the House of Commons had greatly weakened. For the accomplishment of the Development Scheme it was essential that every reputable and well-qualified architect should be brought into their ranks. That was an immediate task lying before them. All Allied Societies should enter into the spirit of the scheme and by meeting their responsibilities do their utmost to bring it to fruition. The proposal for reopening the Licentiate class of the Institute offered an entry to its ranks to many established architects who were non-members, and they should have no hesitation in thus

enrolling themselves. He urged all members to see that assistants, pupils, and students were attached to a Society allied to the R.I.B.A. There was now an excellent spirit of unity among the Allied Societies and agreement had been reached among them for transference of members from one to another without additional fees. In dealing with the affairs of his own Association the president reviewed the activities of the past year, including lectures, addresses, excursions, and meetings of an educational and social character. He mentioned the collaboration of the Council with the Southampton Civic Society and the Town Planning Authorities of Winchester, Alton and Basingstoke and the part played by the Association in safeguarding the amenities of Christchurch Priory. He made reference to the Association library, and especially to the collection of lantern slides which it possessed. In conclusion he expressed deep appreciation of the services of the Hon. Secretary, Treasurer and Librarian (Mr. A. L. Roberts) and of those of the Year Book Editor (Mr. T. D. Atkinson).

Col. R. F. Gutteridge (Southampton) proposed a vote of thanks to the president for his address. He had covered a great deal of ground and they were greatly appreciative of the able way in which he fulfilled the duties of President of the Association.

Mr. H. S. Sawyer supported the motion. He revealed that their President, in addition to the time devoted to the Association, gave much also in attending the Council meetings of the R.I.B.A. He thought that the president should have all the support they could give him.

Mr. A. L. Roberts also rose to support the motion. He considered the address of the President most encouraging and inspiring to them all. He noted the growing importance of the Allied Societies, which was the first pleasing outcome of the Development Scheme. He stated in conclusion that he had received a message from Sir William Portal, a past president, expressing the hope that they would have a very successful meeting.

The motion was carried with applause.

SOUTH WALES INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.

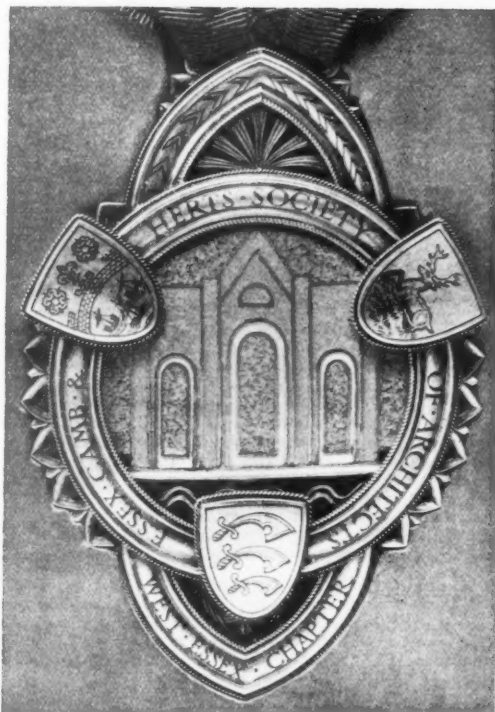
Under the auspices of the South Wales Institute of Architects (Central Branch) and the Institute of Builders (South Wales Branch), a lecture of outstanding interest was given at the Engineers' Institute, Park Place, Cardiff, on 30 October, by Mr. E. J. Bolwell, Clerk of Works, St. Paul's Cathedral.

Mr. Bolwell took as his subject "The Work at St. Paul's Cathedral," and with the aid of an excellent collection of lantern slides specially taken for the purpose he described in detail the great scheme of work which has been undertaken during recent years with the object of restoring Sir Christopher Wren's masterpiece. He made quite clear to his audience the nature of the work in strengthening the piers with bars of Firth's stainless steel and cement and also the extremely complicated and difficult task of making secure the dome supports by means of great rods and chains of the same non-corrosive metal.

A vote of thanks to the lecturer was proposed by Mr. H. Norman Edwards, of the South Wales Institute of Architects (Central Branch), and seconded by Mr. T. E. Gough (South Wales Branch, Institute of Builders).

Mr. Edwards drew attention to the fact that, notwithstanding his responsibilities, Sir Christopher Wren lived to a ripe old age and he also derived comfort from the fact that although he possessed outstanding genius he had made mistakes.

Mr. J. E. Turner, J.P., presided over a large audience of architects, builders, and others who are interested in architectural matters.



THE JEWEL OF THE ESSEX, CAMBRIDGE AND HERTFORDSHIRE SOCIETY.

Recently designed for the Society by Richard Garbe.

ESSEX, CAMBRIDGE AND HERTFORDSHIRE SOCIETY.

HERTFORDSHIRE CHAPTER.

A meeting of the Chapter was held at the Institute on 5 November, when Mr. Capper of the C.P.R.E. explained the position with regard to Panels. It was decided to ask the C.P.R.E. to write to all the local authorities in Hertfordshire stating that the Architects' Society were prepared to nominate a Panel and to ask the local authorities, if such Panel is formed, would they be willing to co-operate.

The attendance at the meeting was more satisfactory, but the attention of members is called to the fact that to make the work of the Society more efficient, a larger attendance is necessary, and it is hoped that members will make every effort to be present at the meetings.



MR. T. FORBES MACLENNAN [F.].

Mr. T. Forbes Maclellan [F.] who has recently been appointed Dean of Guild by the Council of the Guildry of Edinburgh, is a past-president of the Edinburgh Architectural Association and a member of the Council of the Incorporation of Scottish Architects. Mr. Maclellan was at one time one of the four representatives from Scotland on the Institute Council.

THE LONDON BUILDING ACT, 1930.

Mr. Bernard Dicksee [F.] has in the press an entirely new annotated edition of the London Building Act 1930 on the lines of his previous well-known editions of the repealed Acts.

It will be published by Messrs. Edward Stanford, Ltd., 12, 13 and 14 Long Acre, W.C.2, and is expected to be ready early in the new year.

COMMONWEALTH FUND FELLOWSHIPS.

The attention of members of the Institute who are graduates of a British University and under the age of 30 is drawn to the Commonwealth Fund Fellowships which give opportunities for a minimum of two years' study and travel in the United States. The Fund is an American foundation, which has as one of its chief objects the establishment of mutual amity and understanding between this country and the United States.

For an architect a Fellowship gives opportunity of research and travel and also a period of work in an office. A Fellowship, which costs the Fund approximately £600 a year, is held in connection with one of the American universities.

All further information may be had from the Commonwealth Fund Fellowships, 35 Portland Square.

MR. ARTHUR ASHTON [F.].

Mr. Arthur Ashton [F.] was elected at the head of the poll in the Leamington Spa Borough Council election and is serving on the Housing and Town Planning and other Committees.

THE XIIITH INTERNATIONAL HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING CONGRESS, BERLIN, 1931.

The Council of the Federation, of which Dr. Raymond Unwin [F.] is President, has accepted the invitation of the Magistrat of the city of Berlin to hold the next Congress there from 1 to 5 June 1931. The chief subjects of discussion are "Slums" and "The Traffic Problem in relation to Town and Regional Planning."

The invitations, programme, and other particulars will be issued later.

THE PRESERVATION OF ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

At the meeting of the R.I.B.A. Council on 3 November the Tenth Report and also the Final Report of the Works Committee of the St. Paul's Cathedral Preservation Committee were submitted.

The Council placed on record the deep indebtedness of the Royal Institute to Capt. Stanley Peach, the R.I.B.A. representative on the Preservation Committee, for the unremitting care and devotion he had given to the work. The Council are confident that the important part Capt. Peach has played in securing the successful accomplishment of the stupendous task of preserving and restoring the fabric of the Cathedral will be recognised and applauded by all his fellow-members.

R.I.B.A. STUDENTS.

The following were elected as Students at the meeting of the Council held on 3 November 1930:—

DENISON: THOMAS EDWARD TURNER, 2 Roscoe Terrace, Upper Armley, Leeds, Yorks.

DE WET: RAOUL LINDSAY, 39 Bridge Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.

FARROW: JOHN WILFORD, 34 Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.

FRANKS: RONALD HERBERT, 8 Ferncliff Road, Dalston, E.8.
JACKSON: RICHARD JOHN LAURENCE, The Knoll, Guisborough, North Yorkshire.

JOHNSON: FRANCIS FREDERICK, "The Toft," Bridlington.
LINGWOOD: PERCY, Woodhouse Lane, East Ardsley.

LOYD: MARY ELIOT, 14 Augustus Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

MAW: ZOË THEODORA, 12 Victoria Mansions, Sandwell Crescent, London, N.W.6.

MAYO: MARY ISABEL, Shire Oak Dene, Headingley, Leeds.
NAUDÉ, DAVID FRANÇOIS HUGO, 91 Bedford Street, Liverpool.

ROGERS: VERNON WILLIAM, "Cheriton," Fawley Road, Hilsea, Portsmouth.

SARJEANT: JOHN KEKWICK GLENN, 65 Parkhurst Road, Holloway, London, N.7.

SEEL: ERNEST, 37 Cemetery Road, Beeston Hill, Leeds.

SPENCE: CHARLES CLIBBORN, Roath House, Low Fell, co. Durham.

STAMMERS, CONSTANCE SHIRLEY, Primrose Hill, Barr Common, near Walsall, Staffs.

WISE: ARTHUR GEORGE, "Greenways," Launceston, Cornwall.

REGISTER OF PROBATIONERS.

During the month of October 1930 the following were registered as Probationers of the Royal Institute:—

ABRAHAM: JOHN GEORGE, Holmwood, Hendon Avenue, Finchley, N.3.

ANDERSON: EDITH MARY CHARLOTTA, 28, St. Gabriels Road, Cricklewood, N.W.2.

ATTRIDGE: RALPH, 2 Longs Terrace, Kensington, W.8.

BANNAN: HENRY JOHN, 67 Palace Road, Tulse Hill, S.W.2.

BARNARD: ARTHUR FRANCIS GERALD, 29 Stoke Newington Road, N.16.

BARNES: HARRY, 6 West View, Helmsshore, Nr. Manchester.

BARRELL: GEORGE WALTER, 4 Beauchamp Road, Sutton, Surrey.

BARRETT: WILLIAM HORACE, 33 Dassett Road, West Norwood, S.E.27.

BLICK: PERCY LLOYD, 101 Hurlingham Road, Fulham, S.W.6.

BRANSFORD: CHARLES ALFRED, 33 Gladstone Park Gardens, N.W.2.

BROWN: ALISON MARGARET, 12 Albert Court, S.W.7.

BUNKER: NORMAN FREDERICK, 79 Tennyson Road, Luton, Beds.

BUTTRICK: WILFRED THOMAS, 47 Oswald Road, Scunthorpe, Lincs.

CARPENTER: JAMES EDWARD BENHAM, The Towers, Lansdown, Bath.

CLIFFORD: HENRY DALTON, Moorings, Chailey Common, Sussex.

CLOTHIER: GEOFFREY IND, 101 Wanstead Park Road, Ilford, Essex.

COLCLOUGH: THOMAS JAMES HANCOCK, "Lyngarth," Clough Hall, Kidsgrove, Stoke-on-Trent.

COLEMAN: HAROLD MONTAGUE, "The Bungalow," Manor Way, Guildford.

COLLINS: HENRY PAUL, 115, Canterbury Road, S.E.15.

COMPTON: THOMAS HENRY HUGH, 21 Westbourne Street, Sloane Square, S.W.

COOPER: LAWRENCE ARTHUR, 32 Fosote Road, Hendon, N.W.4.

CRADDOCK: FREDERICK DAVID, "Tettenhall," Sandown Road, Lake, Isle of Wight.

CRANE: YVONNE, "Nellator," 43 Coolhurst Road, Crouch End, N.8.

CULLEN: THOMAS GORDON, 132 Green Lanes, Stoke Newington, N.16.

- D'ALWIS: HYLTON THEODORE SHIRLEY, 73 Grove Street, Liverpool.
- DENSHAM: ARTHUR ROY, Foxley Lodge, 2 Higher Drive, Purley.
- DICKENSON: DOUGLAS WALTER, The Cottage, 194 Osborne Road, Jesmond, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
- DUKE-WOOLLEY: HILARY BEECHAM, 2 Palace Court, W.2.
- DURAND: GUY, c/o C. W. Bywaters, Esq., 40/44 Stevenage House, Holborn Viaduct, E.C.1.
- EVANS: DAVID GEORGE, "Eastlands," Somers Park Avenue, Malvern, Worcestershire.
- FELTON: JOHN, 71 Bargate, Grimsby, Lincs.
- FEUILLADE: LESLIE PENDRELL DE LA, 277 Boston Road, Hanwell, W.7.
- FLEMING: ROBERT SINCLAIR, 95 Charlottle Street, W.1.
- FOLKES: DAVID NEVILLE, Hagley Grange, Nr. Stourbridge.
- FORGE: JAMES WILLIAM LINDUS, 13, Hart Street, W.C.
- FOYLE: DOUGLAS REGINALD, "Mount Ash," Colin Deep Lane, Hendon, N.W.9.
- GEDDES: WILLIAM JAMES, 9A Station Road, Portessie, Buckie, Banffshire.
- GIFFIN: CHRISTOPHER CHARLES MICHAEL, 45, South View, Letchworth, Herts.
- GILBY: DANIEL, Ruabon, Oaklands, Cheltenham.
- GODDARD: HENRY GORDON, Newton Harcourt Manor, Leicester.
- GOODMAN: JOSEPH CHRISTOPHER, Homeside, Wylde Green, Birmingham.
- GRAY: CHARLOTTE, 19C Netherhall Gardens, Hampstead, N.W.3.
- HAIN, JNR.: DAVID, Fort Knowe, Laurieston, Falkirk.
- HALL: JOHN PERCIVAL, 9 Hickman Road, Penarth, Glamorgan-shire.
- HART: REGINALD STUART, 52 Cromwell Road, S.W.7.
- HAWARD: BIRKIN, "Broad Beech," Belstead Road, Ipswich.
- HEARN: WILFRID ROY EDMUND, Bulls Head Hotel, Meriden, Coventry.
- HERMAN: MORTON EARLE, 228 Balham High Road, S.W.17.
- HEWITSON: THOMAS TUNSTALL, Fairfield, The Serpentine, Blundellsands, Lincs.
- HIGGS: RONALD WILLIAM, 150A Broad Street, Five Ways, Birmingham.
- HILL: JOHN DALTON LEWIS, 82, Station Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex.
- HUGHES: GEOFFREY MADEN, The Bungalow, Old Park Avenue, Enfield, Middlesex.
- JEFFRIES: PHILIP WATERMAN, 78 Jesson Road, Walsall, Staffs.
- JOHNSON: NORMAN SQUIRE, "West View," Carlisle Road, Pudsey.
- JOHNSTON: MONA BLAIR MCGAREL, College Hall, Byng Place, W.C.1.
- KEAT: HARRY JAMES, "Rock Lea," Tregaron Avenue, East Cosham, Hants.
- KINGMAN: ARTHUR FREDERICK, "Eastwood," Burton Road, Bridport, Dorset.
- KRETZER: RONALD GEORGE KENNETH DE, 21/22 Pembridge Crescent, W.11.
- LANSDELL: COELL JACK, 51 Twyford Avenue, Acton, W.3.
- LEWIS: BRIAN BANNATYNE, c/o Commonwealth Bank, Australia House, London, W.C.2.
- LONGDEN: JOHN ANTHONY THELWALL, The High Barn, Leek.
- MCCARDIE: WILLIAM DEREK HESSIN, 9 Church Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.
- MCDERMOTT: LEONARD HUGH, "Rowanmore," Edwin Road, Rainham, Kent.
- McKENNA: ALBERT EDWARD, 5 Kenilworth Road, Penge.
- MANN: ROBERT HARWOOD, The Drive, Mytholmroyd, Yorks.
- MARRIATT: GEORGE HENRY GORDON, 17 Parkers Row, Bermondsey.
- MARTIN: IVAN CHARLES, c/o London Central Y.M.C.A., London, W.C.1.
- MASTERS: FREDERICK GEORGE, 25 Wontner Road, Upper Tooting, S.W.17.
- MEIRING: ADRIAAN LOUW, 91 Bedford Street, Liverpool.
- MEWTON: GEOFFREY HARLEY, c/o Commissioner General for Australia, 25 Broadway, New York City, N.Y. U.S.A.
- MONTGOMERY: FRANCIS GERARD, "Beplands," Sandfield Park, West Derby, Liverpool.
- MUNRO: JAMES, North Bodiechell, Fyvie, Aberdeenshire.
- NAUDÉ: DAVID FRANCOIS HUGO, 91 Bedford Street, Liverpool.
- NAYLOR: JOSEPH ALFRED, 44 Pearl Street, Carlinghow, Batley, Yorks.
- NORIE: DOROTHY MARION, Pine Hill, Camberley, Surrey.
- NORRIS: JAMES CHARLES, 28 George Road, Brentford, Middlesex.
- OGDEN: JAMES DE VERE, "The Spinney," Brooklands Road, Sale, Cheshire.
- PATE: DAVID McLEAN, 14 Clifton Gardens, Maida Vale, W.9.
- PARSONS: WILLIAM MICHAEL TRACEY, Hillcrest, Wraxall, Somerset.
- PENROSE: GEORGE RICHARD, 27 Brunswick Square, W.C.1.
- PONSFORD: HARRY THOMAS, 5 Nevern Road, Earl's Court, S.W.5.
- PURSER: JOHN MAURICE, 5 Hereford Gardens Mews, North Row, Park Street, W.1.
- RANGELEY: JACK, 72 Albert Road, Levenshulme, Manchester.
- RANK: JOHN STEPHEN, 305 Spring Bank West, Hull.
- ROBINSON: HENRY, 37 Arundal Street, Wakefield.
- ROBSON: HAROLD, 91 High Street, Bridlington.
- ROGERS: WILLIAM HERBERT HENRY, 343 Mare Street, Hackney, E.8.
- RUTTER: FRANK MOWBRAY, 45 Hopton Road, Streatham, S.W.16.
- SAMUEL: JOHN DONALDSON, 94 Whittagreen Terrace, Newarthill, Via Motherwell, Scotland.
- SANMUGANATHAN: SUPPRAMANIAM, 1 Howitt Road, London, N.W.3.
- SHERIDAN-SHEDDEN: JOHN RONALD, 24 Newfoundland Road, Cardiff.
- SHERMAN: JOAN, 9 Northgate, Ipswich, Suffolk.
- SHERWELL: EILEEN MAY, 13 Midmar Gardens, Edinburgh.
- SLANEY: EDWARD OLIVER FRANK, 44 Finborough Road, S.W.10.
- SMITH: CHARLES AQUILA VINCENT, 27 Blenheim Road, Bedford Park, London, W.4.
- SMITH: CARMEN STELLA GREGORY, 16 The Mall, Surbiton, Surrey.
- SMITH: KATHLEEN DORIS, Middleheath Garage, Redington Road, Hampstead, N.W.3.
- STEANE: PATRICK FRANCIS MAUDE, 84 Clifton Hill, St. John's Wood, N.W.8.
- STEWART-SMITH: DAVID CREE, Lady Dorothy's Cottage, Enville, Stourbridge.
- SUTTON: CLARENCE WILLIAM, 63A Golders Green Road, Hendon, N.W.11.
- SWIFT: ARTHUR, Ridgeway House, Nether Heage, Nr. Belper, Derbyshire.
- TAYLOR: HARRY, "Two Stocks," Falinge Fold, Rochdale, Lancs.
- TOWNSEND: GEOFFREY PAULSON, 14 Trafalgar Road, Twickenham.
- ULLMAN: EUGENIE DOROTHY, 31 Bernard Street, W.C.1.
- WALKER: FRED BUTTERWORTH, Grosvenor Place, Luddendenfoot, Nr. Halifax, Yorks.

WALKER: HERBERT, 42 Westcliffe Road, Cleckheaton, Yorks.
 WALL: LIONEL WALTER DESMOND, 2 Rugby Road, Newport, Mon.
 WATSON: HARRY, The Crossways, Bengoe, Hertford.
 WATSON: JAMES BOYNE, 43 Almond Street, Riddrie, Glasgow.
 WELLS: JOHN HAROLD, 64 Fordel Road, Catford, S.E.6.
 WHITE: BERNARD GEARING, 51 Cranley Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex.
 WILLIAMS: JOHN OWEN, 4 Grosvenor Street, Stretford, Manchester.
 WILSON: HUBERT FRANK, 103 High Street, W. Norwood, S.E.27.
 WILSON: WILLIAM GREGORY, 8 Trinity Road, Bridlington.
 WILTON: DAVID, 8 Richmond Hill, Bournemouth.
 WRAGGE: NORMAN OSWALD, 23 Leighton Road, Old Trafford, Manchester.
 WRIGHT: HENRY MYLES, 7 Gosforth Villas, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Notices

THE THIRD GENERAL MEETING, MONDAY, 1 DECEMBER 1930

The Third General Meeting of the Session 1930-31 will be held on Monday, 1 December 1930, at 8 p.m., for the following purposes:—

To read the minutes of the Second General Meeting held on Monday, 17 November 1930; formally to admit members attending for the first time since their election.

To read the following paper: "Modern Cinema Design," by Mr. J. R. Leathart [F.].

PROPOSED PALACE OF JUSTICE, ATHENS.

The following resolution was passed by the Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects at their meeting on 3 November:—

"The Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects share the apprehension of the Académie des Beaux-Arts at the proposal of the Greek Government to erect a Palace of Justice near the Acropolis and close to the Theatre of Dionysos. They join with the Académie des Beaux-Arts in hoping that the Greek Government will consider the danger of interference with these great monuments by placing a modern building in juxtaposition with them."

MEMBERSHIP OF THE R.I.B.A. THE LICENTIATE CLASS.

The revised Bye-laws of the Royal Institute of British Architects have received the approval of His Majesty's Privy Council, and applications may now be sent in for membership of the R.I.B.A. in the Licentiate Class. Full information and the necessary forms will be sent on application being made to the Secretary R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, London, W.1

ASSOCIATES AND THE FELLOWSHIP.

Associates who are eligible and desirous of transferring to the Fellowship are reminded that if they wish to take advantage of the election to take place on 2 February 1931, they should send the necessary nomination forms to the Secretary R.I.B.A. not later than Saturday, 6 December 1930.

LICENTIATES AND THE FELLOWSHIP.

The attention of Licentiates is called to the provisions of Section IV, Clause 4 (b) and (c), of the Supplemental Charter of 1925. Licentiates who are eligible and desirous of transferring to the Fellowship can obtain full particulars on application to the Secretary R.I.B.A., stating the clause under which they propose to apply for nomination.

OVERSEAS APPOINTMENTS.

Members contemplating applying for appointments overseas are recommended to communicate with the Secretary R.I.B.A., who will supply them with any available information respecting conditions of employment, cost of living, climatic conditions, etc.

THE R.I.B.A. LONDON ARCHITECTURE MEDAL, 1930.

The attention of members is drawn to the Form of Nomination and the conditions, subject to which the award will be made, for a building completed within the County of London during the three years ending 31 December 1930, issued separately with the current number of the JOURNAL. Any member of the Royal Institute is at liberty to nominate any building for consideration by the Jury.

The Nomination Forms should be returned to the Secretary R.I.B.A. not later than 28 February 1931.

The Medal for the building completed between 1927 and 1929 will be presented to Messrs. Adams, Holden and Pearson, F.F.R.I.B.A., for the London Underground Electric Railway Companies' Premises, Broadway, Westminster, at the General Meeting of the R.I.B.A. to be held on 19 January 1931.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATER USERS.

Members are reminded that the National Association of Water Users, on which the R.I.B.A. is represented, exists for the purpose of protecting the interests of consumers.

Members who experience difficulties with water companies, etc., in connection with fittings are recommended to seek the advice of the Association. The address of the Association is 46 Cannon Street, London, E.C.4.

CLERKS OF WORKS

The Secretary has received from the Imperial War Graves Commission a list of efficient Clerks of Works who are thoroughly recommended for such positions. Members desirous of obtaining the services of a clerk of works are invited to apply to the Secretary R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, W.1, for further particulars.

Competitions

BERMONDSEY: PROPOSED MEDICAL CLINIC.

The Bermondsey Borough Council invite architects to submit, in open competition, designs for a new Medical Clinic to be erected in Tower Bridge Road.

Premiums: £150, £100 and £50.

Last day for receiving designs: 10 January 1931.

Conditions of the competition may be obtained on application (before 6 December 1930) to Mr. E. Goff Clark, Town Clerk, Town Hall, Spa Road, Bermondsey, London, S.E.16. Deposit £2.

BURTON-ON-TRENT: PROPOSED COUNCIL SCHOOL.

The Burton-on-Trent Local Education Authority invite architects to submit, in open competition, designs for a new Council School for approximately 800 children, to be erected on a site in Clarence Street.

Assessor: Mr. H. T. Buckland [F.].

Premiums: £150, £100 and £50.

Last day for receiving designs: 30 November 1930.

Conditions of the competition may be obtained on application to Mr. L. E. Burgess, Secretary and Director of Education, Education Offices, Guild Street, Burton-on-Trent. Deposit £1.

GUILDFORD: PROPOSED CATHEDRAL

The Guildford Cathedral Committee invite architects who have been engaged in the building of cathedrals or churches to submit drawings and illustrations of their works; or a design for a cathedral. Not more than three sets of drawings may be sent, all to be contained in one large portfolio. Architects who have not been engaged in the actual execution of such works, but have studied and designed ecclesiastical buildings, may submit similar portfolios of drawings or designs.

The Committee, with the assistance of Mr. Walter Tapper, A.R.A., F.S.A. [F.], will select a limited number of architects for the Final Competition, who will each receive Five Hundred guineas, whether the design is accepted or not, but the Committee will be free to accept or reject any or all of such designs.

Portfolios must be sent in on or before 30 November 1930, addressed to The Venerable the Archdeacon of Surrey, The Diocesan Office, Lloyds Bank Chambers, Guildford.

NORWICH: PROPOSED NEW FIRE STATION.

The Norwich Corporation invite architects practising in Norwich or the County of Norfolk to submit, in competition, designs for a new Fire Station, to be erected on a site in Bethel Street.

Assessor: Mr. Robert Atkinson [F.].

Premiums: £100, £75, £50 and £25.

Last day for receiving designs: 1 February 1931.

Conditions of the competition may be obtained on application to Mr. Noel B. Rudd, Town Clerk, Guildhall, Norwich. Deposit £1 is.

SCARBOROUGH: NEW SCHOOL.

The Scarborough Education Committee invite archi-

itects to submit, in open competition, designs for a new School to be erected in Seamer Road.

Assessor: Mr. Morris Thompson [F.].

Premiums: £100, £60 and £40.

Last day for receiving designs: 17 January 1931.

Conditions of the competition may be obtained on application (before 17 November 1930) to Mr. R. Underwood, Director of Education, Education Offices, Huntress Row, Scarborough. Deposit £1 is.

Members' Column

ACCOMMODATION TO LET.

MEMBER of the Institute wishes to meet another member who will take part share of his office at Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C. Good light, mutual assistance might be arranged.—Apply Box 6110, c/o The Secretary, R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, London, W.1.

APPOINTMENT VACANT.

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT. To be suitably qualified, preference being given to candidates with accepted professional qualifications and training in architectural design and draughtsmanship. Salary £350 per annum. Forms of application may be obtained upon application, enclosing stamped addressed foolscap envelope, to Mr. F. Willey, F.R.I.B.A., 34 Old Elvet, Durham. Last day for receiving applications Wednesday, 3 December, 1930.

PRACTICE WANTED.

MEMBER of Institute wishes to purchase sound established Practice. Liverpool and Cheshire districts preferred.—Apply Box 3110, c/o The Secretary, R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street, London, W.1.

Minutes III

SESSION 1930-1931.

At the Second General Meeting (Ordinary) of the Session 1930-1931, held on Monday, 17 November 1930, at 8 p.m.

Sir Banister Fletcher, F.S.A., President, in the Chair.

The attendance book was signed by 17 Fellows (including 4 members of Council), 22 Associates, 5 Licentiates (including 1 member of Council), 2 Hon. Associates and a large number of visitors.

The Minutes of the Opening General Meeting, held on 3 November 1930, having been published in the JOURNAL, were taken as read, confirmed, and signed as correct.

The Hon. Secretary announced the decease of:—

The Rev. P. H. Ditchfield, M.A., F.S.A., elected Honorary Associate 1920.

Alfred Arthur Hudson, K.C., elected Honorary Associate 1902.

Edward James Naldrett, transferred to the Honorary Associateship 1925.

Professor Florestan Korb, elected Honorary Corresponding Member 1926.

Frederick Septimus Brunton, elected Fellow 1921.

John Allford Cheston, elected Associate 1912, Fellow 1919.

James Bow Dunn, elected Fellow 1905.

Frank Herbert Gorst, elected Fellow 1928.

Colonel Wilfred John Hardcastle, elected Fellow 1902, late President of the South Eastern Society of Architects.

Richard George Howard Joseland, elected Fellow 1928.

Edwin Riddell Kennedy, elected Associate 1906, Fellow 1926, Past President of the Ulster Society of Architects, and represented that body on the R.I.B.A. Council from 1926 to 1930.

Joseph Charlton Maxwell, elected Associate 1894, Fellow 1926.

Charles Russell Peacock, transferred to the Fellowship 1925.

Thomas Taylor Scott, elected Associate 1882, Fellow 1891. Past Chairman, Cumberland Branch, Northern Architectural Association.

William Gillbee Scott, elected Associate 1881, Fellow 1891. Mr. Gillbee Scott was a member of the R.I.B.A. Council in 1904-5, 1914-17, and 1922-23, and was for some years a member of the Practice Standing Committee.

Charles James Tait, elected Associate 1882, Fellow 1906. Arthur Heron Ryan Tenison, elected Associate 1894, Fellow 1903, transferred to Retired Fellowship 1929.

Vernon Constable, elected Associate 1908.

Robert Banks-Martin, transferred to Licentiate 1925.

Samuel Wesley Bradshaw, elected Licentiate 1910.

John Edmund Burke, transferred to Licentiate 1925.

Herbert Lee Cowell, elected Licentiate 1911.

Charles Flint, transferred to Licentiate 1925.

Henry Horne Flowers, elected Licentiate 1912.

John Thomas Johnstone, elected Licentiate 1911.

Charles Reginald Newborn, elected Licentiate 1911.

Alfred Eaton Painter, elected Licentiate 1911.

John Samuel Ruchwaldy, elected Licentiate 1910.

Captain Ernest Gabriel Stevenson, elected Licentiate 1911.

James Villar, transferred to Licentiate 1925.

David Valentine Wyllie, elected Licentiate 1911.

and it was Resolved that the regrets of the Institute for their loss be entered on the Minutes and that a message of sympathy and condolence be conveyed to their relatives.

The following members attending for the first time since their election were formally admitted by the President:—

Mr. A. L. Tamkin [A.]

Mr. F. H. H. Webb [A.]

The President announced that by a resolution of the Council the following had ceased to be members of the Royal Institute:—

FELLOWS

James Hector McKay.

Charles Frederick Ward.

ASSOCIATES

Benjamin Charles Ernest Bayley.

Ralph Scott Cockrill.

Arnold Lowcock.

Edward Meadows Penman.

Osgood Smith.

LICENTIATES

George Hamilton Briggs.

Harold Cane.

William Dent.

Arthur Howard Dickinson.

Robert Henry Glegg.

Walter Ernest Jefferiss.

John Mossop Lewis.

Edward William Meredith.

James Mundell.

James Murray.

Edgar Charley Nisbet.

Joseph Pearn-Lewis.

John Russell.

Harold Gibson Walker.

Vivian Stanworth Whitaker.

The President also announced that by a resolution of the Council the following member has been suspended from membership for a period of twelve months:

William Arthur Banks, Fellow.

Mr. A. N. C. Shelley having read a Paper on "Public

Control of Building: The Position in 1930," a discussion ensued, and on the motion of Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health, seconded by Mr. C. J. Kavanagh, O.B.E., a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Shelley by acclamation and was briefly responded to. The proceedings closed at 9.55 p.m.

ARCHITECTS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

(Insurance Department).

HOUSE PURCHASE SCHEME

(for property in Great Britain only).

The Society is able, through the services of a leading Assurance Office, to assist an Architect (or his client) in securing the capital for the purchase of a house for his own occupation, on the following terms:—

AMOUNT OF LOAN.

Property value exceeding £666, but not exceeding £2,500, 75 per cent. of the value.

Property value exceeding £2,500, but not exceeding £4,500, 66⅔ per cent. of the value.

The value of the property is that certified by the Surveyor employed by the Office.

RATE OF INTEREST

In respect of loans not exceeding £2,000 5½ per cent. gross.
" " in excess of " 5½ " "

REPAYMENT.

By means of an Endowment Assurance which discharges the loan at the end of 15 or 20 years, or at the earlier death of the borrower.

SPECIAL CONCESSION TO ARCHITECTS.

In the case of houses in course of erection, it has been arranged that, provided the Plan and Specification have been approved by the Surveyor acting for the Office, and the amount of the loan agreed upon, and subject to the house being completed in accordance therewith, ONE HALF of the loan will be advanced on a certificate from the Office's Surveyor that the walls of the house are erected and the roof on and covered in.

NOTE.—In 1928, over £20,000 was loaned to architects under this scheme, and as a result over £100 was handed to the Benevolent Fund.

If a quotation is required, kindly send details of your age next birthday, approximate value of house and its exact situation, to the Secretary Architects' Benevolent Society, 9 Conduit Street, London, W.

It is desired to point out that the opinions of writers of articles and letters which appear in the R.I.B.A. JOURNAL must be taken as the individual opinions of their authors and not as representative expression of the Institute.

R.I.B.A. JOURNAL.

DATES OF PUBLICATION.—1930:—6, 20 December; 1931:—10, 24 January; 7, 21 February; 7, 21 March; 4, 18 April; 2, 16 May; 6, 20 June; 11 July; 8 August; 19 September; 17 October.

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